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Pioneer life in Clermont
County

PIONEER LIFE IN CLERMONT COUNTY

1804 - 1860

Copies of old manuscripts written by Benjamin Morris about 1858-1860, for the Cincinnati Gazette and The Clermont Courier and perhaps other newspapers. Benjamin Morris was the brother of Senator Thomas Morris of Bethel, Ohio. These manuscripts were copied and indexed by Alleen Whitt, through the courtesy of Robert Slade and Roseanna Hoberg .

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PIONEER LIFE IN CLERMONT COUNTY 1804 - 1860

COPIES OF OLD MANUSCRIPTS WRITTEN BY BENJAMIN MORRIS ABOUT 1858 - 1860 FOR THE CINCINNATI GAZETTE AND THE CLERMONT COURIER & PERHAPS OTHER NEWSPAPERS. BENJAMIN MORRIS WAS THE BROTHER OF SENATOR THOMAS MORRIS OF BETHEL, OHIO. THESE MANUSCRIPTS WERE COPIED AND INDEXED BY ALICE WITT THROUGH THE COURTESY OF ROBERT SLADE AND MCKEANA ROBERT. Senator Thomas Morris Indexed B. F. Morr. Bens.

"Henry" and "Jane" are fictitious pioneers; "Carlow," "Towser" and "Bull" are evidently fictitious dogs owned by the early pioneers.

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Bethel History etc.

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About the seventh of June in the year 1804. I first put my foot down on the soil of Bethel in Clermont County, Ohio. At that time and for more than a dozen years thereafter, the place was known by the name of Denhamstown. The good old patriarch, Obed Denham did not in 1804 live within the limits of the laid out town plat. He lived at the Big spring West of the 2n lots. Reader if at any future time you wish to know the whereabouts of this Big spring, walk Westward on plane street until you reach the western limits of the 2n lots. Then walk further westward down the turnpike, ten or twelve rods; then turn square and walk directly North thirty or forty rods until you pass the highest ground in that direction; looking North from that point you will see the Big spring, and the ground on which Obed Denham erected cabins in the fall of the year 1796. when there was not a family within twelve miles of his cabins. There the first trees were felled, and the first corn and potatoes raised that grew in the vicinity of Bethel. Obed Denham was a thorough regular Baptist, and a thorough anti slavery man. In the record of the town plat, he made an anti slavery record, the oldest that is known in the limits of Ohio; it is about four years older than the constitution of 1802 which prohibited slavery; he took a very active part in bringing forward Philip Gatch and James Sargent (both methodists) as members of the convention of 1802 which made the first anti slavery constitution of Ohio. I heard him say often that he made exertions to bring out and elect these men because they had emancipated their slaves and moved into a territory in which slavery was prohibited by the general government. Mr Denham therefore wisely concluded that men were reliable, who had thus proved their principles by their deeds. Mr Denham was not alone in making this declaration. I have heard the same from many others, and in the most strong and decisive language. In the winter 1811–12. I lived in the vicinity of what has since been called Penni Mill (it was then Brown's Mill) We had a debating club; which was well attended by men of all ages. We selected the old men, who were to decide which side used the best arguments. After the decision of our judges we generally took a sentimental vote of the whole club; sometimes on the merits of the arguments, but generally on the real merits of the question. In these votes it was required that each individual should express his real opinion. We labored long and hard at one question namely, would the State of Ohio have increased faster in population and wealth, had the constitution of 1802. admitted slavery. We had no statistics at that time showing the growth of the free and the slave States; so after exhausting all our wits and our arguments for two or three evenings, our judges decided that those who argued for the admission of slavery had the best of the argument and in this opinion nine tenths of our club concurred. We then changed the question to this form "would it have been good policy to have admitted slavery into the state of Ohio". This brought up the morality of the system; and the natural and moral right to hold slaves. In arguing this question, those who argued for the admission of slaves into Ohio met an overwhelming defeat. I believe that every man and boy in our club, were in sentiment opposed to slavery; while they at the same time believed that excluding slavery from Ohio would greatly retard the growth and settlement of the State. This belief forty five or fifty years ago was almost universal. They were willing at that time to be a poor people and feeble in numbers, rather than witness the wrongs of the system and permit a few lordlings to estimate them as they estimated their own slaves. Between 1810 and 1815. I become acquainted with upwards of twenty Kentucky families; some from the immediate neighborhood of Lexington, and some that had seen Henry Clay when he was only a large green looking boy; most of them were estimable families, persons for whom I have ever had feelings of friendship and respect. They told me very truthfully of the amount of tobacco, hemp, pork and the like, exported from that noble State, and if you had told any of these, that Cincinnati at some future day would be the equal of Lexington in population, wealth and business, they would have considered you a proper subject for the madhouse. For many years after I took my abode in Ohio. I believed that as a state it would ever or long remain inferior to Kentucky in point of wealth and population. I believed it, because every body else believed it. For it seemed a conceded matter, about which there was to be no dispute. The people of Ohio had this merit in rejecting slavery. They rejected it on that principle of doing right; not because they were convinced it was unprofitable. The dollar and cent view of the matter is mainly the growth of the last thirty years. Thomas Morris during the last years of his life often said with great earnestness, that something must be done to perpetuate the fact, that Obed Denham was the first man in Ohio, who by a permanent record made a protest against slavery; he talked of a monument for that purpose; and if he had lived a few years longer I think he would have accomplished it, for he seemed very intent in the matter. The anti slavery sentiments that were prevalent

in Clermont County many years ago, are noticed in this place for the purpose of showing that Obed Denham was not alone in his anti slavery principles. He ought rather to be considered the representative of a very large class, that lived in his day. His untiring energy and zeal in the cause of human freedom made him prominent, he had been equally zealous in the cause of the American Revolution, and often appealed to the opinion of the founders of our government as well as to the Bible to sustain his own views on the slavery question. He had five sons and three two daughters; none of his children were married when he settled at Bethel; the names of his sons were: Timothy, John, James, Obed E. and William. His daughters were, Charity and Sarah; the latter was the youngest child and about seven years old when her father settled at Bethel; she is the only one of the family now living, and resides on a farm adjoining Bethel. Obed Denham was a native of New Jersey; he migrated to Kentucky at an early day, bought land there and made a farm, which he exchanged for the survey on which Bethel stands. He built the first mills on Poplar, a little above the mouth of sugartree, and made substantial improvements on his farm; the land which his farm included was mainly North and West of the Big Spring; he lived ten or twelve years in the cabins he first erected, and then built and moved into the brick house, which stands on the West side of the town branch. To the best of my recollection he died in 1818. His tomb stone gives the date, and states that he was proprietor of the town of Bethel. This tombstone may be seen in the old burying ground in the North part of the town plat — that ground which he donated to the regular Baptist church not being slave holders, or holding in fellowship those who exercise tyranny over their fellow creatures. This is the meaning, if it is not the precise words of the record. — In June in the year 1804. The following persons lived within the limits of the Bethel town plat namely: Doctor Loofborough, John Hewitt, Jacob Mahan, Houton Clarke, Thomas Morris, Philip Murphy, Aaron Osborn, Jeremiah Beck Senr and William Goble. The Denham family and Kelly Burk lived very near the town plat. John Morris and Jeremiah Beck Junr lived on the North side of Poplar Creek, half a mile from the town plat. Rev. Moses Frazer Levi Tingley, James South, John Boggess Esqr and William Test, all lived within two miles of Bethel. Two brothers of the name of Hunt; William Crouch, Benjamin Frazee Esqr and Stephen Frazee lived a little further that from Bethel, say about three miles. I have no recollection of any others that were actual residents within three miles of Bethel in 1804. without including residents North of Clover; and I expect to describe the Clover settlement hereafter. John Hewitt above named was the son in law of Doctor Loofborough; he lived nearly opposite the present residence of Randolph Sinks and kept a sort of tavern in some log buildings on the corner. Jacob Mahan was the father of John Mahan of Sardinian memory, who was sent by Vance Governor of Ohio, to be tried for a felony charged in the indictment to have been committed in Mason County Kentucky; when in fact Mahan had not been in any part of Kentucky for upwards of nineteen years. A Kentucky judge became ashamed of such scandalous proceedings, and sent Mahan home. Mahan offered ten dollars for the irons he had been loaded with, but the Kentuckians wisely refused to let the irons go. I had this statement concerning the irons from John Mahans own mouth. He had been a school boy of mine in 1807 and 8. and I felt anxious to know the whole truth. But a truth that would include the whole matter would amount to this. There was at that time a death struggle between the leaders of the whigs and the leaders of the democracy, to ascertain which could be most servile to the President making power, the slave holders; when one went on its knees, the other went on its belly; when one eat dirt to please this power, the other eat dung; the depths of degradation to which each in turn submitted has no parallel in history; and if it had not been for the wish to please this power, with the ulterior view of holding office under it John Mahan would never have seen the inside of a Kentucky jail; such is my own opinion, and if this was the proper place I could sustain that opinion by a strong array of facts. It was the corrupt servile course of leading Northern politicians that did this scandalous deed more than the particular action of the governor.

For the first few years after I come into Ohio, politics, and the new state government seemed to be the great subject of thought and conversation. The first settlers had for thirteen years been under territorial pupilage; and had an intense hatred to executive authority. This feeling led them in framing their state constitution, to deprive the Governor, not any of the veto, but the appointing power; so far as it was practicable to take that power out of his hands; in after years, some considered this an error; and as an excuse for this error, I have heard some say, that when they went into the convention, they went with backs smarting under executive usurpations.

Nearly all the men at Bethel, and within two or three miles of the place, took active part in getting up the convention of 1802. They formed a corresponding political society; and such societies were formed throughout the territory.

The design of such organizations was to learn each others views on the propriety of going into a State government; and the leading features of the intended Constitution. Obed Denham, John Morris and Jeremiah Brock Junr took an active part in the organization at Bethel. Thomas Morris, at that time lived at Williamsburg; he did not reside at Bethel until March 1804. These organizations were continued during the sitting of the convention; so that there was a continual intercourse between the members of the convention and their constituents at home. So it may truthfully be said that the people did ratify their constitution, as it was made. And that when the convention made its last adjournment, the members knew by direct intercourse with their constituents, that the constitution was approved of by ninty nine out of every hundred voters. It may be a matter of policy for an individual to be silent when he knows, that an overwhelming majority, with whom he must have continual intercourse, are opposed to his political opinions. Young as I was in 1804. it seemed to me as a very astonishing fact, that the people in Ohio, were all of one opinion in political matters. The two preceding years I was employed most of the time in writing in the office of the Clerk of the Court, in one of the Counties in Virginia. This office was a place of great resort and political discussion. The supporters of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, were nearly equal throughout the County. Every large majority of the slave holders were Fed and opposed Jefferson; but a slave holding democrat was sure to be elected to the general assembly, or to Congress; for such democrats stood up boldly before the people, and on the stump, and every where else openly defended Jefferson, and all his anti slavery sentiments declaring that every slave holder knew that Jefferson was right. Mrs Underwood driven into exile, sprung from a slave holding democratic family of this description. Her father, grandfather, and an uncle had represented that district in Congress between thirty and forty years. They had contributed largely in building up a district, in which she found no rest for the soles of her feet; this story is no fiction. I went many a day to the same school with her father; and often heard the public speeches of her grandfather and uncle. The dark spirit of slavery, has put down free discussion on the very spot where I learned that freedom of speech was the birth right of every American citizen; it has done more; it has driven into exile the descendants of conspicuous democrats; because they believed the great truths taught by Jefferson; and impressed on their own minds by their democratic ancestors. If the accusations made fifty or sixty years ago; and always made by Jeffersonians against the Adams party are true; or only half true; then it is a truth established by facts; that the spirit of ancient federalism now rules and reigns triumphant in what is now called the democratic party.

In 1804. Ohio appeared a new political atmosphere; after being accustomed to hear the political disputes in Virginia; and sometimes seeing a political squabble end in a knock down; a black eye, or a broken nose. There could be no political quarrels in Ohio, because all appeared to be on the same side. Remember that Jefferson was President at this period. In July or August 1804. Rev. John W. Brown commenced publishing a newspaper in Cincinnati called "Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Mercury" I know that I am correct as to the time when this paper was commenced; for it was the first summer that I was in the country and I subscribed for the paper about the middle of August and procured the back numbers which were few. From this paper and from persons who had lived in the territory from ten to fifteen years; I understood the history of the territorial government about as well as many of the old residenters. John W. Brown was liberal in publishing communications; some of these severely censured men who then lived in Cincinnati and had been officers under the territorial government. The settling of old scores between the new and old; the officers of the new and the old government was a little bitter and acrimonious; in extent it did not go beyond old territorial politics; and much of it was merely personal. On national politics we had no disputes; all out west agreed that the purchase of Louisania was a wise measure though its constitutionality had been denied in Congress, and was still stoutly denied in some of the Northern States. The expedition of Lewis and Clarke through the rocky mountains to the pacific furnished a subject for ordinary conversation, and an occasional News paper paragraph. This passed the time in three years of the life of [illegible] The opening of the year 1805. was marked by the event that Aaron Burr was in Cincinnati, and he continued there some two or three weeks. Early in April the same spring, twenty two wax figures were brought to Cincinnati as a show, and placed in Griffin Yeatman's hotel; this was a large commodious frame building on front street. These wax figures occasioned much talk in the country around Cincinnati and led to some News paper explanations relating to Gen Butler and Charlotte Corday; hundreds went to see this show, and myself among others. The figures were in two separate rooms. The West room contained a representation of the death of General Butler, who was killed by the Indians. The assassination of Murat, who was killed

[illegible] that were prevalent.

by Charlotte Corday during the French revolution. And a very strong representation of the duel between Burr and Hamilton. I went into the rooms as soon as the doors were opened in the morning, and continued there until one o'clock. I found there a pamphlet which gave an account of the duel between Burr and Hamilton, and read it an hour. During the forenoon several Cincinnati Gentlemen came in; I learned from their conversation that Burr was then in the Town, and that he was the subject of general conversation. Some of them had seen him, and said that the wax figure was a very correct representation of his personal appearance. They said that he had been invited in to see these figures, but declined to comply with the invitation. Burr was at one time in Williamsburg in Clermont County; but I am not able to say whether it was before, or after the time I have here mentioned. From the spring of 1805 until the summer or fall of 1807 Aaron Burr was the observed man, throughout the states, and particularly throughout the West. The disclosures at different periods of that time; the guarding the river at Cincinnati; to stop his boats; his arrest and his trial in 1807 all served to turn public attention to Burr and his plans.

We will now take a view of Bethel and its surroundings, as it was in 1808. Within the four years preceding this period, some young men were married; and many families had moved in and commenced farms within three miles of Bethel. Benjamin Crane (a brother in law of Obed Denham) settled on Poplar, a little over a mile south west of Bethel; he had one daughter Sarah and four sons; Abner, Sears, Luther and Davis; the last named is still living near Bethel. Sears was a Baptist preacher and died in Illinois. Abner and Luther died on the old homestead land, on which their father first settled. Thomas West bought two hundred acres of land lying west of Crane; the road from Bethel to New Richmond passes through it. He brought with him from the neighborhood of Lexington Kentucky, five sons and two daughters. His three oldest sons, John, William and James had young families; they all settled near each other; and are now all dead except one son and one daughter. A little over one mile further on the New Richmond road the Henderson family settled; they were from Greenbriar Virginia. Joseph and James had families; their mother was a widow, with six or seven girls and one son Charles; then a youth sixteen or eighteen years old. The family now like other families, are much scattered, and some are dead. Charles continued a bachelor, and took charge of his mother during her life, and he yet remains a bachelor on the old homestead where I first saw him upwards of fifty years ago. He is a mild looking grey headed old man; and appears well satisfied to be called Old Charley or old Uncle Charley. I believe that others are now repaying to him the kindness he bestowed on his own mother, in years long gone and past. Jarret Riley, a Baptist preacher settled about three miles South West of Bethel in 1805 or 6. The road from Bethel to Point Pleasant passes through the land. He was from Clark County Kentucky, and brought with him a very large family of children; all unmarried and in their teens. The names of the oldest were Ninian, John, Zachariah and William. The oldest daughters were Nancy, Betsey and Sarah. There were four or five younger children. I do not distinctly remember all their names. Mr Riley continued on his new farm until 1810 or 11, leaving a part of his oldest children in Clermont. He continued in Kentucky many years (occasionally coming over here to preach) and then moved into Illinois where he died. His wife returned, and died in Bethel with her oldest daughter Nancy. John Riley when about eighteen married the daughter of John Conrey Esqr and commenced preaching as a Baptist preacher when he was a very young man; since 1810 he has resided a part of the time in Illinois; he is at present in Clermont and continues to preach though he is an old grey headed man. Zachariah Riley was about fifteen years old when his father settled in Clermont; and he has resided in this County ever since. He was noted when a boy for his mechanical ingenuity; he spent many years of his life in carrying on a chair shop and running a saw mill; by patient honest industry, he lived well and gave his children a good education and has yet a sufficiency of worldly comforts. He married the daughter of George Swing formerly mentioned as one of the early settlers west of Bethel. Nancy, the oldest daughter of Jarret Riley was married in November 1810 and resided in Bethel about forty years. I utter a long settled opinion, and the honest convictions of my mind when I say that Nancy Riley, Mrs Clarke was through a long life a most excellent woman. She was practically good; she was peaceable and forbearing; she alleviated the ills and sufferings of others, in every way in her power; she cheerfully endured the fatigues of attending the sick through long dreary nights and there was something in her presence that gave balm and cheerfulness to the afflicted. She was just such a person as the suffering and afflicted loved to see. She died in June 1857, May many follow her example.

Bethel Ohio 18th of September 1857

Benjamin Harris

On the day before Christmas in the year 1805. I rode from Newtown in Hamilton County, to Bethel in Clermont County. Near Newtown I fell in company with a Kentuckian who lived near Maysville, and continued together throughout the day. From what is now about the middle of Newtown; there was not a house or a vestige of improvement until we came very near the big spring at Williams settlement. From Newtown to Rose's hill the road was overhung with the largest sort of trees. It looked like the valley and shadow of death, both winter and summer. From the top of the hill to the big spring, the woodland was more open; droves of wild hogs were running in the woods; and some few scattering turkeys were seen on the trees. The day was rainy, and the road was deep and muddy. We rode mostly through the woods, on the north or south side of the road as seemed most convenient. In 1804. Zachariah Chapman built cabins on the State road about seven miles West of Bethel and nearly one mile West of Back run. It was nine miles from the big spring to Chapmans house, and there was no cabin on, by or near this nine miles of road. In travelling this nine miles, myself and fellow traveller, kept generally two, three or four hundred yards from the beaten muddy track. We saw on that day, from three to five thousand wild hogs in the woods, including all ages and sizes. The Kentuckian thought that three thousand was quite too low an estimate. We may have been mistaken, but the number was enormous. And we saw eight or nine hogs that had been shot, and their skins taken off, and the entire carcass left on the ground to be devoured the other hogs, or any wild prowlers of the forest. Two or three of the hogs appeared quite fresh as though the slaughter had been within twenty four hours. It rained hard as we approached Chapmans dwelling; so we went in to warm and dry our clothes. Zachary treated us very kindly; he had a large fire of logs in his fire place; so after taking a little internal moisture as an equipoise to external humidity, we had a comfortable half hour; when in pops Jacob Ulrey, wet as a drown-ed rat. I had often heard of him; but had not seen him before this time. His ~~ladder~~ wrath was up; he had been all that day traversing the woods, to secure at least a part of his hogs from the depredators. He swore in round terms, that if he found a man in the woods skinning a hog; he would call to him to stand still; and if he attempted to run he would shoot him; but if he obeyed and stood still he would tie him up and whip him with a [illegible]

He said that on that day he had seen a number of skinned hogs in the woods, through which he had traveled. About three years after this period Mr Ulrey informed me that it was his belief that the before named hog depredators were not citizens of Ohio; that their residence, so far as they had any, was in or among the hills on the south side of the Ohio river; that under pretence of hunting they crossed the river and encamped among the hills and deep ravines on the north side of the river; that they killed some deer and turkies, and as many hogs as they could shoot down and skin. He believed that occasionally they carried on their operations so far as to salt down some of the pork they had killed; though the skin was the main object. Mr Ulrey said that the skin of a well grown hog was then worth about thirty three cents.

For three years before December 1806. Every sort and kind of wood mast was abundant beyond any mast I have seen since that time. In the spring of the year 1805. in many places the ground appeared as if sown with buckwheat, or something of a vigorous growth; this appearance was owing to the sprouting and growing of beech nuts that had lain on the ground through the winter; many of these spots of ground were near new farms where hogs had full liberty to run during the winter; and on dry rolling ground, hickory nuts and black walnuts were plenty and in early spring some were in a good state of preservation, and very palatable. The year 1806. was remarkable. A great rain fell about the 20th of January. February, March and April were unusually dry. May had tolerable rains. There was a great Eclipse of the sun in the summer; I think it was in June. — June July and the first half of August were dry. — After corn planting time, the worms cut up the meadows, and greatly injured the wheat, rye and oats; taken altogether, the crops were remarkably poor; there was no mast, and the winter that followed was a remarkable severe winter. On the seventh day of February 1807. was the long remembered cold friday. The spring was late. On the first seven days of April the ground was covered with snow, three or four inches deep; during that week a great number of cattle died for want of food. About the eighth of April 1807. I passed through Montgomery, Hamilton County, and saw more fresh hides hanging around a tan yard than I have ever seen at one place or

time in my life. The failure of the crops and mast; and the cold winter of 1806–7: destroyed thousands of wild hogs in the woods. It was said that some of the stronger survived the winter, by living on the weaker as they died; be that as it may; in the fall of 1807. it was a common saying that hogs were scarce.

As long as the settlers were few; and the woodland range extensive it was the rule by common consent, that if a man found a drove of wild hogs in the woods, a few of the oldest hogs having his mark, he claimed the whole. But if two marks were found on old hogs, then the unmarked hogs were amicably divided. The real owners of hogs generally banded together to protect themselves from a common enemy. In the early history of the Courts of Clermont County, a number of indictments were found, charging individuals with the unlawful taking of hogs; such prosecutions generally failed; for it was impossible to show that the defendant acted with a design to steal; unless it could be shown that he had no hogs in the woods.

The ownership of hogs has generally created difficulties in new settlements, and the accusation of hog stealing has been more common in new settlements than any other charge. Upwards of forty years ago Lorenzo Dow preached in a grove, in or adjoining Bethel. He was showing that men voluntarily become rascals; and that their rascality was their own work, and not the work of God. He emphatically exclaimed; is there a thief here to day – if there is, I tell you Sir that God did not make you a thief; but you made a thief of yourself, when you stole your neighbors hog. Lorenzo here made a dead pause; stretched himself up to full length, and made a scrutinizing gaze over the congregation – there was some wincing, turning around, and looking to see who was hit. Lorenzo well understood the sins, common in new settlements

About two O'Clock in the afternoon, on the day before Christmas in the year 1807. I started from Bethel for Lebanon in Warren County. At the time of starting, it was my intention, to go that day as far as the house of Mr Glancy, on the Lebanon road, about eight miles North of Williamsburgh. There was at that time but one house between Sharp and Glancy, and that was the farm house of Conrad Kauffman, very little North of what is now the town of Boston. The road was

was muddy, and when I passed the Harsh farm, daylight was about gone. However I was in good spirits and pushed ahead; anticipating that within about an hour I would be in very agreeable company, for Mr Glancy had two sons, John, and William, not very far from my own age; and a very pretty daughter Betsey, I had first seen her in the summer 1806. when she was hardly grown. When I was within about a mile and a half of Mr Glancy's house, I was aroused from my pleasing anticipations by the howl of Wolves. I thought they were about a mile distant, on the East side of the road. It was not pleasant music to my ear, so I mended my pace. In about five minutes, they howled again, and seemed about a quarter of a mile nearer. The horse I rode was a strong animal, and seemed now very earnest to push ahead as fast as possible. Within five or six minutes more, they gave a most thrilling yell, which seemed sixty or seventy rods behind me in the road. I now went ahead in very good earnest; and in quick time after the third howl; a screech and a yell was raised behind me in the road, and within the distance of two hundred yards. It is said by hunters that a dozen Wolves can utter a howl, that would lead an inexperienced person to believe that such howling and screeching required a hundred throats. I never had a satisfactory opinion, as to the number of Wolves in this gang; it appeared as if the number increased as they come nearer; but the last howl and screech that I heard, would have done honor to a thousand furies and devils, let loose from pandemonium; as soon as I heard it, I committed myself to the judgement of my horse to make his escape, and did not try to guide him or choose his road. I did not look to the right or left, but kept my head down as near as I could to the head of my horse, to watch the track, or opening he might choose. I felt sure that he would carry me off in safety, if he did not fall or stumble; he kept the beaten track at his best speed; and in a few minutes brought me to the door of Mr Glancy. I have never been able to say whether the wolves did, or did not chase me after I heard that last named fourth infernal howl. I have mentioned all the howling I heard, and if there was any more, I was too badly scared to hear it; but my horse certainly did believe that he was pursued; he had that peculiarity of motion, that horses have, when chased by dogs. I saw no wolves near his head, but at that time believed that they were plenty not far from his heels. It was a clear star light evening, and the ground was frozen on the following morning. The family noticed my frightened appearance, and said that they heard the Wolves almost every night; that the prowlers occasionally ventured into the very door yard, to steal young or small animals, kept there for safety; but that a few well directed rifle shots, was teaching the thieves to keep at a more respectful distance. I was then about five months over twenty two years old.

Bethel, Ohio, August 31. 1858

Benjamin Morris

Bethel History etc. (9)

For the Cincinnati Gazette

Bethel Clermont County, Ohio August 1858

January 1817. I was anxious to see E. A. Brown one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and who was soon after Governor of Ohio. The Williams bridge was with ice; a deep snow had fallen, the sleighing was good, and the roads smooth. I left Bethel on foot about half an hour before day break, and was far on my way before sunrise. About four miles East of Williamsville I overtook a Mr Green, who retailed goods at Williamsville; his conversation was interesting, but his pace rather slow, he detained me a little; and when arrived at his home, he requested me to see a fine hog he had in a pen, and asked my opinion of its weight. I said three hundred; he said my estimate was too low; that before Feb. was out he expected to see it go four hundred on the scales. This little impediment over, I went ahead, and was in Cincinnati a little before two P. M. I stopped at a restaurant a little east of Deer Creek, and took some refreshments, and then for business. I stepped the plank floor of the new wood en bridge over Deer Creek, and made my estimate of the length of the floor at four hundred and fifty feet. I stepped it when I returned, and made the same estimate. Doctor Wayland had requested me to call at the Apothecary of Doctor Fairchild for an ounce of Spanish flies, and a few other small articles in the pill way. Doctor Fairchild was the very soul of good will and politeness; he was certain he had heard of Judge Brown and believed he could give me the desired information; he left his shop a few minutes and on his return informed me that though he had not learned the residence of the Judge, he had reliable information that he was then in Indiana; he said that as Doctor Wayland was a good customer he had put the articles low; that fifty cents per ounce was the usual price for Spanish flies, and he had put them at 43 and other articles as low. Many years after in a public debate I turned this little incident to good account. Every article of merchandize was low; Spanish flies were down to 13 cents per ounce; the friends of protection argued that the cheapness of goods was owing to home manufacture. I thought differently and detailed prices at different periods, and particularly noticed the fall in the price of flies. My friends said that in application, I used a very hot plaster. I believe now in an assertion made by Thomas L. Hamer, that household manufacture is the true system to give dignity and independence to the masses. If through the aid of machinery one man can do the work of ten on the old system this was and not yet [illegible] in idleness if not in vice; but to my mind

Though satisfied that Doctor Fairchild had given me correct information. I was determined to find the whereabouts of Judge Brown, to prevent delay, if I had to return to the City. I traversed the streets about two hours, occasionally making Inquiries. I met a dashing young officer in complete American Uniform; he smiled complacently on me. I asked if he was acquainted throughout the city; perfectly acquainted, was his laconic reply. Are you acquainted with Judge Brown of the Supreme Court? Well acquainted with the Gentleman; follow me, and I will take you to his door. He walked ahead in true military style, and after passing three or four squares and turning several corners, he opened what appeared a private gateway or door, then crossed through the middle of a square, and took me through a back door into the middle of a large drinking saloon; then turning to me with a polite bow he exclaimed; pray sir what would you choose to drink. I excused myself by saying that my business was urgent, thanked him for his kindness; but in truth felt quite comfortable when I found myself once more on the open pavement. After walking a few squares, I saw a very gentel looking female meeting me; thinks I, here is my man; Judge Brown is a bachelor, and she'll know all about him; I gave her nearly all the pavement, and then with all the politeness I could master made the inquiry; she never opened her pretty mouth, but gave me a look which said "you brute" and so passed on. I felt worse sold than at the drinking saloon; why should the lady use me thus; I was clad in the best clothes I ever owned. Very wisely concluding that my way of operating was worse than useless, I concluded to go to some of the old pioneers of the City; luckily the name of General James Findley occurred to me. I knew where to find his office, and entered it; he was sitting alone, examining a large pile of Bank notes that lay before him on the table. He laid aside his spectacles, and with a few concise words gave me the desired information. He did this with such a friendly, easy good will, that the response of my heart was: thank you, kind, good old Gentleman; I shall not be flirted this time. I was soon at the residence of the Judge, and learned that he would be at home in about two weeks. The day had been clear and fair throughout; and it seemed as if all creation had turned out for daylight riding. I made my way slowly out to Sutton; intending to [illegible] over night at that well known establishment called [illegible]

Tavern. The house was full. I here met with one of my earliest friends in Ohio, Col J. one of nature's noble men. He asked if I remembered the fact of sending him on a turkey hunt. He alluded to a fact I had almost forgotten. In the fall 1804. I passed near his door, and inquired for his boys; I stated that where the path crossed a certain ravine about half a mile distant, I had seen a number of turkeys on the trees; and very wisely concluded that if the Col's sons attended to the matter they could easily bring down a few of them, as I knew they were excellent marksmen; the sun was little more than a half hour high P.M. the boys were not at home; so I passed on and heard no more of the turkies for upwards of twelve years. The Col told me at Fulton that after I left his his house, he took his gun, found the path, the ravine the trees and the turkies; no misstatement about the matter; but I had made an important omission by not adding the word "buzzard", to the word "turkey". He said that at first, he thought I designed it as a joke on his boys; but was soon convinced that it was owing to my extreme nearness of sight; this is only one of a hundred blunders I have made from this cause; and many were far more ludicrous. From the cause here stated, I was always a poor hunter, though when a boy first rate at shooting at a mark. I shot my last wild turkey in January 1807. A flock come into a corn field near my boarding place, I took the gun, made a circuit, and approached the turkies from the woodlands side, got a good rest, and shot the largest fellow of the flock. In 1804. it was common to shoot wild turkies within 12 or 15 miles of Cincinnati; and at a much later period in Clermont County. The last flock of wild turkies I have seen in the woods was in the fall of 1832. in the East fork hills opposite or a little above Moore's mills above Batavia; they were on the ground, running up the hill; no mistake they were real turkies.

At Whetstone's tavern in Fulton, on the evening before named, was the last time I saw my good friend Col J. and it was the first time that I saw Jesse Wood, who in after years become notable in Clermont County. He was sometimes called lord wood king of goshen; our northern citizens will long remember him. Jesse had received an agency to sell large tracts and parcels of land, lying and being in and near Goshen. He had laid off a town, and on that evening I first heard from his own mouth the announcement that the town, out of Goshen was so fixed a fact. Three gentlemen from

Pennsylvania, had stopped that night at Mr Whitstone's tavern they were in search of land, and inquired for bottom land on the Ohio, or little Miami. Jesse most earnestly solicited them to come out and see his Goshen lands; he expatiated largely on the advantages of soil, and local position; and the opening prospects of the newly laid out town. He warned them to shun as they would shun the plagues of Egypt, the bottom lands on the Ohio, and Miami. He said that one half of the new comers on these lands died in acclimating, and that half the remainder were confined to their beds most of the summer and fall, in consequence of fever and ague. A hard fisted chap who lived at New town or thereabouts could hold in no longer. He very unceremoniously called Jesse a d..... nd liar ~~[illegible]~~ Jesse protested against such ungentlemanly talk, and insisted that the rustic ought to ask pardon for the insult; but the rustic was true grit, and insisted that Wood was the very sort of liar he had named. I believe that Jesse sold no land that evening. — On the same evening I had a conversation not noticed by the company, as they were talking in different squads. A man say about 35 years of age; a substantial looking man in external appearance; informed me that his enemies had contrived to get him indicted on a serious charge; that he first employed Gazlay; but before the trial come on he engaged Thomas Morris of Bethel. He stated that at his trial he was acquitted; that he had never supposed any man capable of making such a speech as Morris made in his defense; that it was worth double the money he was to pay for it; on the supposition that he would have been discharged without it; for he said that it turned public feeling in his favor, and made his enemies ashamed of their own conduct in the matter. He urged me to tell Mr Morris that he felt under lasting obligations to him; and as to the fee (one hundred dollars) every dollar was ready in hard coin; he said that he wished to have the pleasure of handing over the money to Mr Morris at the earliest opportunity. I delivered the message; and afterwards learned that he did pay over the money in the manner he had promised. Before ten O'clock, a large part of the company had left the tavern and by midnight the balance had settled down for sleep. I slept five hours, and was on the road about daybreak. [illegible] morning [illegible] and entered my own door in Cincinnati [illegible] A.M. I had been absent about thirty one hours, and in finding my way [illegible] I walked at least eighty Five Miles

Benjamin Morris

Bethel History

(13)

No 3

In giving an outline of early settlers I shall confine myself to those on the ground before 1808. Previous to 1815, and probably later, there were few squatters or leasers; it was a very rare occurrence to find a family living on ground, they did not own. I think it was after 1815 that some squatted on rich surveys that had not been in Market. In early times many bought land, and long years passed away before they were clear of debt. If the first owners could not wait, they contrived to borrow money; and some borrowed two or three times before they were clear of the debt contracted for their land. Some after paying about half and making some improvement, sold their land at more than double first cost; paid the old debt and had plenty left to purchase woodland for a good farm. Some that had land urged on them the seller promising to wait till they could pay, really (within 25 years) become rich by this purchase. I will commence West of Bethel and notice the first settlers, on the old state road. This road was run on the line where the turnpike now runs; the first settlers changed the road at some place to suit their convenience; but when the pike was made, it was straitened to the old track. Early in 1806. Samuel Beck settled about three fourths of a mile West of Bethel. His cabins were a little east of the turnpike bridge, that crosses the Town branch; he bought one hundred acres of land at two dollars per acre; he paid down, a horse, saddle and bridle at one hundred dollars; for the remaining hundred he had two or three years credit. He went ahead to clear his land, plant fruit trees and make other improvements, and did not pay the debt for his land under seven or eight years; he twice borrowed money, making each time a new debt to pay off the old, and finally paid the whole by making shingles and roofing barns. Some years after the first purchase, he added twenty acres of wood land to his farm; for this last twenty, he paid four dollars per acre. Three sons, and three daughters of Samuel Beck are yet living; two daughters live in Illinois, and one in Iowa; his oldest son was licensed to practice Medicine before he was twenty years old, and has been practicing upwards of thirty years; his second son is a farmer in Illinois, and his third son is a leading lawyer in Southern Iowa. The history of this family, shows the importance of female energy and industry. Samuel Beck's daughters could, every sort of work then known to be done by females; for years one daughter was employed in the [illegible] was sorting leaf tobacco (the produce of the farm) into

ars; they had abundance of good clothing; equal to any worn by vill
nales at that period; they more than sustained themselves, in
nished clothing for their brother while he was studying medicine,
d furnished him with a fashionable suit when he obtained license
practice; the oldest was not then eighteen years old. We would have
w physicians now, if the young student had to depend for clothing
n the labor of his younger sisters. One of the daughters of Samuel Beck
a letter written to me two or three years ago, in giving me some ac
unt of her family, states that her own daughter twelve years old can
t and make all her own dresses. Samuel Beck died in Iowa, in June
858. his wife died near Madison Indiana in July 1844. she was
sister of Thomas Morris, who was well known as a lawyer in the
arly history of Clermont County

In 1805. George Swing, a middle aged man, erected cabins about forty
r fifty rods West of the turnpike bridge that crosses poplar, about a
mile and a half West of Bethel: He was a shoe and boot maker, from New Jersey, and
had begun the world pennyless; but was then able to pay down one
thousand dollars, for five hundred acres of land. He had four sons
Michael, Samuel, Laurence and Wesley; and one daughter Polly
his youngest child. About the year 1807. Michael married the daugh
ter of Judge Gatch, and lived thereafter in the vicinity of Milford.
Judge Gatch was one of the worthies of the day in which he lived;
he was in Ohio under the territorial government, and contributed
largely, in making Ohio, what she now is. All the children of George
Swing are now dead except Polly and Laurence. A number of his
grand children are now among the most talented and useful men
of Clermont, though several have gone West. Taken altogether Geor
ge Swing was a man of more than usual talent, and weight of
of character. After living on his old homestead about forty years;
he died and was buried near his residence. The family burying
ground is on the North side of the turnpike, on a high bank of
poplar creek. ——— In 1805. Jesse Justice erected cabins fifty or sixty
rods West of the turnpike bridge over sugar tree creek; he purchased
five hundred acres of land at two dollars per acre, and paid down
for it. His children were, Catharine, Jesse, John, Saville, Samuel
and Robert. They are now all dead except Saville, who lives
on and owns, a considerable part of the land that his father pur
chased in 1805. Jesse Justice was a methodist preacher from the

State of New Jersey. He had served during most of the revolutionary war; was on the ground during the whole siege, and at the taking of Cornwallis. In his preaching, which in general was really interesting, he often alluded to facts that transpired during the war and his recollection of facts was remarkably clear and definite. Waggish boys on their way to hear him preach, would often wonder if Mr Justice would say any thing that day about the war, and the taking of Cornwallis. If they heard nothing on the subject, they felt sore and disappointed. Although Mr Justice was an eccentric man; he was not only strictly honest, but charitable and benevolent; two or three days before he died; he sent for the Doctor that had been attending him; and paid his bill; stating that it had always been his wish to die out of debt. He died in August 1826.

To the best of my recollection in 1806. Edward Baston built cabins on the south side of the old state road, about a mile West of the cabins of Jesse Justice. He was a poor man from the state of New Jersey, and bought one hundred acres of lands from Jesse Justice and was to clear ground for Mr Justice to pay for the land he had bought I am not informed whether he completed the payment to Mr Justice; he lived on the land 10 or 12 years and then sold it to Saville Wilson. He evidently bettered his circumstances by buying and selling this land; for after selling to Wilson, he bought and paid for more, and better land though not as well improved. He raised a very large family, and to the best of my recollection died in or about the year 1832.

Early in 1805. passing the state road track, and being a little West of the spot where the Bantam toll gate now stands, I looked North through thick beech woods, and saw the cabins of Robert Leeds 30 or 40 rods distant from the road; he was pretty well surrounded by trees; having little land cleared; this was Bantam in its incipient state. Mr Leeds settled on this ground in 1804. and in 1806 turned the road to go by his house, and it remained so until the turnpike was made; he was from New Jersey, and owned about one hundred acres of land; he had three sons and two daughters; only two of the family are now living

About half a mile West of the Bantam toll gate, on the south side of the turnpike and near the bank of Ulrey's run Benjamin Clarke settled at a very early day; his land extended to the road, though his cabins were not in view of the road. I was not acquainted with him until 1808. He lived on this land probably twenty years, and often

Barlow Area, etc. (16)

No 4

Early in the fall of the year 1802. Rev. John Collins came out from New Jersey to Williamsburg, and purchased of Gen. Lytle an entire survey of land sufficient to make seven or eight good farms. The east fork was the Northern boundary of this land from the mouth of Clover, to within about a quarter of a mile above the mouth of Ulrey's run. There were four partners in this purchase, namely, John Collins, Cornelius M'Collum Isaac Higbee and Josiah Albertson. — Albertson never settled on his share of the land, a part of it was leased, and it finally fell into the hands of his children. Early in the spring of the year 1803. Collins, Higbee and M'Collum moved out, and divided the land; M'Collum settled at the mouth of Clover Higbee settled on the East fork below and adjoining M'Collum, Collins settled on that part of the land nearest Ulrey's run; his farm was some times called the horse shoe bottom; Albertson's land was between Collins and Higbee. The settlement commenced in 1803. by Collins, Higbee and M'Collum, was the beginning of what was long known as the Jersey settlement. It was sometimes called Collins' settlement; and the first log schoolhouse erected therein was near the present grave yard, and near what is now called the Bethel meeting house. Before 1807. the following heads of families lived within the school bounds of this schoolhouse without including any family, west of Ulrey's run, namely Cornelius M'Collum, Isaac Higbee, John Collins, Edward Doughty, Alexander Blair, John Drummond, James M'Intash, Robert Burnet Thomas Cade, George Higbee Michael Strickland, Widow Reeves, Jeremiah Foster, David White, John Jenkins, Edward Hinman Benjamin Clarke, Robert Leeds Edward Barton, Robert Doughty, Daniel M'Collum, Jesse Justice and Thomas Page. These were all from the State of New Jersey, and in addition to these, there lived in said bounds, east of Ulrey's run; William Simons James Blackwood, Joseph Conn Elias Gerard, Widow Henderson, a Mr. Mitchel, and a Mr. Shepherd. Mr. Blackwood was from Ireland, Widow Henderson was from Virginia; and if ever informed, I do not remember where the others were from. — The people west of Ulrey's run, were not considered as belonging to the Jersey settlement in 1807; though a number were in the school boundary at that time; the heads of families were, Jacob Ulrey, Daniel Tegarden, William Jeffers, Jacob Hris, Christian Hausong, Daniel Hausong. Widow Wenans, the mother of William Wenans well known the popular methodist preacher. It is my impression that in 1807. none of the families named West of Ulreys run, were from New Jersey. I intend hereafter, to speak of them more particularly; when I am through

with the settlers on the east side of Ulrey's run. Let me first say that regular circuit preaching did not commence at the town of Bethel until 1810. though such preaching commenced at Collins School house, as early as 1804 or 5. And many attended such circuit preaching, that did not live within the school boundary. The Swing family. The Dole family. Two or three families North of the East fork. George Meal. Joseph Jackson and others attended such circuit preaching. — In a former number I mentioned the settlers on the old state road between Bethel and Ulrey's run: I will here give the locality of a few, not on that road. Michael Strickland first built cabins near the East bank of sugar tree; about three quarters of a mile below the turnpike bridge. He was a blacksmith of great ingenuity; and a tolerable mechanic at any sort of work. He was a hard working man, and made substantial improvements on his land. He erected a good house and barns in view of the Macedony mills, some little distance from his first cabins. He continued to work, to keep things in order on his farm, until near the close of his life, and died a very old man

Thomas Page settled on the West side of sugar tree and South of the turnpike about three fourths of a mile from what is now the turnpike bridge. In 1807. he dug a long mill race on the West side of sugar tree; and erected a saw mill within sight of the old state road. Mr Page inherited considerable wealth; he bought five hundred acres of land, and in addition to the saw mill made costly improvements on his land, after living on it eight or ten years; he engaged in merchandizing and a tan yard, at the mouth of Big Indian Creek; he was not prosperous and sold his five hundred acres ~~his land~~ to a Mr Simpson who lived many years at Mr Page's homestead, and his son Samuel Simpson now lives there, and owns a large part of the land. Alexander Blair bought land about a mile from the mouth of Clover. He began the world poor and raised a large family. In point of mind, he was a man considerably above mediocrity. He was many years one of the associate judges of the Court of common pleas in Clermont County. After living on his farm about twelve or fourteen years, he removed to Batavia, where he died a very old man. He was Post-master at Batavia many years; this fact I have stated a

lies out of its proper place. James McIntosh started from New Jersey with a family of six or eight children, and with scarce sufficient to bring him out; He raised a large family, all girls; and by the dint of strait forward industry, he made a living, and owned at the time of his death, a comfortable brick house and fifty acres of land. He ever believed that the West was the place for poor men; and that he acted wisely in leaving the State of New Jersey. His wife survived him a few years; they both died on their own ground; at an unusual old age; their grandchildren are now numerous.

I have heretofore named Cornelius McCollum, as one of the founders of the Jersey settlement, and of his location at the mouth of Clover. I have always doubted whether any historian, or biographer would do him full justice. For my own part, I know myself incompetent to perform the task of rendering to him, what is strictly his due. I was acquainted with him upwards of fifty years ago; and often very often from his own mouth, learned the events of the American revolution. With his whole soul, mind, energies and strength, he embarked in this revolution at its begining, and held on until he saw its successful termination. He was in many of its battles, and witnessed its severest trials sufferings and conflicts. I never had the information from him=self, but others have often informed me, that he held a lieutenants commission in the army, and was always ready and foremost in every hazardous enterprize. No one ever doubted his courage, for he ever coveted the point of danger and difficulty; and an over cour=age bordering on rashness was thought by some to be his fault. Cornelius McCollum had a nice discriminating sensibility be=tween right and wrong; this discrimination led him to sustain the cause of the American revolutionists; he loved and practiced the right, and was not over lenient to wrong doers; this sometimes aroused enmity against him, for he never concealed his thoughts and feelings but was always open, candid and free to express his own views on every subject. I last saw the old hero in the Clerks office in Batavia. I most heartily congratulated him on the fact, that the gov=ernment had granted him a pension, without asking him whether he needed the money. The tears ran plentifully down the old man's face; he said that he valued the friendship and esteem of his fellow citizens more than he valued money; and that it was his greatest wish and

desire that the American people would properly value and preserve the liberty so dearly purchased by their revolutionary ancestors. Old Cornelius, as he was familiarly called by his neighbors, retained his faculties both of body and mind to an extreme old age. I am not positive but think he was about ninety three when he died. And the soil of Clermont has the honor of containing the remains of as pure a patriot as ever lifted an arm in defence of American liberty

Daniel McCollum was a son of Cornelius McCollum; he was a young, and single man when his father settled in Clermont County. In the year 1806 or 7. he married a sister of William Winans, an excellent woman; but Daniel's earthly career was short; he belonged to Captain Boerstler's rifle company, and lost his life from a wound received at the battle of Brown town in 1812, in Hull's unfortunate campaign. His father provided for his widow and three children (two girls and one boy) and treated them in all things as though they were his own children; and Daniels son David now lives on the land that was given to his father, by his good old grandfather Cornelius McCollum

Hugh, the second son of Cornelius McCollum now lives on the old homestead at the mouth of Clover; the same land on which his father settled in 1803. He is a man now advanced in years, and has always been a substantial farmer; though a man of few words and unassuming manners, he is surpassed by none in pure patriotism and love of liberty. Isaac Higbee lived on his land about twenty five years. The whole family joined the Mormons and went West; he has been dead some years. William Simons owned two hundred acres of land that extended from from the Williamsburg road to the turnpike; including what is now the Brandiff farm, and the Shotwell tavern house. He sold out, went to the Wabash, and returned with his wife on a visit in 1829. While going down the hill near the Collins farm, he fell or was thrown from his waggon, and received an injury that caused his death in a few days William Simons was a worthy man and a good christian. He was buried at the Bethel meeting house near his old home. DAVID White came out from New Jersey a poor man with six or seven children. In habits of industry he was through a long life steady as Clock work. In a few years with the assistance of his boys he paid for the land, and made a neat farm near the Bethel meeting house; probably owing to his own good example his sons acquired industrious business habits, which they retain. His eldest son married the daughter of Doctor Levi Rogers, and a better woman the world will seldom see. his second son married the daughter of Benjamin Clarke; his third the daughter of Thomas Morris, and his four'th the daughter of Doctor Levi Rogers. His oldest daughter married John Blair the oldest son of the before named judge Blair, and his youngest daughter married Moses Dimmit a son of Ezekiel Dimmit well known in the early history of Batavia. The last twenty five years of his life or perhaps more David White resided in or near Batavia, and part of that time cultivated the rich fields of his son in law Dimmit. he lived to an old age, perhaps to near ninety, his eyes served him too a few years; he was eighty eight at the time of her death.

Benjamin Morris

Bethel, Ohio September 4. 1853.

It is useless to state where Jacob Ulrey lived; every person that has been on the Fair ground knows the place. And many know that in 1798. he erected cabins probably thirty rods East of the present Fair ground. The run had no name, and no settlers on it, when he took his abode on its western bank; so it was rightfully called "Ulrey's run." There are some interesting incidents in the life of Jacob Ulrey, which ought to be preserved. I had them from his own mouth, and have heard many things related by Mrs Ulrey concerning her pioneer life. She was a woman of great weight of character, and very highly respected by all acquainted with her. She fully sustained all the statements of her husband, and added many incidents within her own recollection. Facts lose half their interest when not connected with dates. When we can connect one fact with others, notorious in their character we arrive at a tolerable safe conclusion as to time. Mr Ulrey and his wife were raised in Western Pennsylvania; and at a time when Indian depredations were common there, and in Western Virginia. When they had but one child (George) an infant, not than a year old, they embarked on the Monongahela river in a Kentucky boat, intending to reach the falls of the Ohio. They had horses, cows, and other property on board the boat; and there was one other man besides Mr Ulrey on board, a Mr B. who started with them for the falls. This period must have been about sixty five years ago; say about 1793. They proceeded down the river without any alarming danger or difficulty, until they come within about twenty hours run of the falls; then while they were eating breakfast, the boat became entirely surrounded with ice, without the least opening to make their escape in any direction. The men labored throughout the day without any success, to effect an opening, through which they might escape; and night found them in this gloomy, perilous situation, with a certainty on their minds, that the boat would pass the falls before day break. I have heard Mr Ulrey state that he was often on the ice throughout the day, that it was strong and thick, and that there was often opportunities to have escaped on the ice from the boat to the shore; but that he was not certain that he could effect the escape of his wife and child in that way; so he was determined to stay

[illegible] I have heard [illegible] results [illegible] of this [illegible] She said that while the men were eating [illegible] went to the bow of the boat, and saw that more ice was [illegible] [illegible] before [illegible]

men to the fact, but it was too late. She said that through the day the ice was pressed under one corner of the boat, which caused that corner to rise considerably, and this rise occasioned another corner to sink deeper in the water; which occasioned some fear that the boat might fill with water. They floated onward in this manner until about three o'clock in the morning. Then they could distinctly hear the roar of the water and ice as it passed the falls — and they heard a more pleasant sound — they heard a cow bell on the Kentucky shore. They called for help, and explained their situation; in a few minutes, some of the brave, hardy pioneers of Kentucky, approached their boat with a large canoe. Mr Ulrey secured George with his left hand and arm, and with his right hand, held the hand of his wife, and in this manner, passed on the floating ice to the canoe; after handing them in, he returned to the boat and took out a trunk containing some money and clothing; and as he then thought bid along farewell to his boat, horses, and other property. He's fellow traveler Mr C. secured their guns, ammunition, and some other light articles. After coming on shore Mr Ulrey made no delay with his new kind friends, but started immediately for Louisville and arrived there by day break. It was the opinion of some experienced river men that his boat had passed the falls in safety. He immediately offered fifty dollars to any that would pursue and secure the property. A few strong able men started immediately; and by the dint of hard rowing, overtook the boat in three or four hours; it was in open water, clear of ice. The horses and cows were standing quietly in their places, and all was safe; so he lost nothing but the fifty dollars and the expense of bringing his property back to Louisville. He continued in the vicinity of Louisville until 1798. at that time he bought land and settled on Ulrey's run.

About fifty years ago, A man called Kilwell greatly annoyed the country between the Scioto, and Big Miami. He knew the character of almost every man in the country, and in playing his pranks he generally selected men considered quite smart. Where he stopped to stay over night, his entertainers considered him the very nicest kind of a man, and he could buy on credit or borrow any thing that he apparently needed. He staid one night at the house of a farmer about ten miles West of Bethel; he came riding on a remarkably fine mare; he stated that when he saw the mare he liked her so well that he gave for her, his horse and saddle and all the money he had; which he said was the reason of his riding without a saddle. The farmer's son had a new saddle worth fifteen dollars which he sold to Kilwell, who of course was to call and pay in about three weeks. I had this fact from the mouth of the family. My limits will not permit me to give a tenth of his tricks. He often pretended to be in pursuit of that notorious horse thief Kilwell who had stolen his last horse, so no one could refuse to give him a little assistance and comfort. He was killed near the mouth of the Big Miami, late in the fall 1809. A dozen bullets entered his body, and no legal enquiry was made about the matter. It was I believe in 1807. that Kilwell called at the house of Jacob Ulrey late in the night. He stated to Mr Ulrey that he was in pursuit of Kilwell the horse thief; and that with the assistance of a bold, brave man, he could secure the rascal that very night. Mr Ulrey mounted his best horse, and the two put off together in pursuit of the horse thief. I was never very particularly informed how Kilwell entertained Mr Ulrey through the night, or where they searched; but they kept together until morning, and then swapped horses, and Mr Ulrey returned home with a noble grey horse, that was long known by the name of "the Kilwell grey". Within a few days Mr Ulrey learned who had so courteously called him out of his bed to catch a horse thief. He immediately advertised the horse stating that it was probable Kilwell had stolen the animal; and soon after he took the horse out near Dayton, and learned from the former owner that Kilwell had swapped for the horse. Kilwell had in that particular told him the truth; and it is probable that this one lie induced Ulrey to be merciful to him, when afterwards he had Kilwell completely in his power. Jacob Ulrey was not the man to bear quietly the injuries practised on him by Kilwell; he traced him out in every way that was possible, and was soon convinced that he had a lurking place within six or seven miles of Ulrey's own farm; and with a family not ignorant of Kilwell's true character. He finally succeeded in taking Kilwell prisoner, and delivered him into the jail at Williamsburg. I heard Mr Ulrey say that in watching for Kilwell he lost many nights sleep, and that he doubts sometimes doubted the propriety of taking him alive while there was such a certainty that no jail would hold him for trial. Kilwell often broke jail; but I do not remember that he ever had a trial. He changed his clothes once or twice a day to prevent [illegible] his personal appearance. [illegible] probably [illegible] more than [illegible] in the life of Jacob [illegible]

[illegible] September 13. 1856

Benjamin Harris

In the spring of the year 1808 the following families lived West of Ulrey's run Jacob Ulrey, Daniel Tegarden, William Jeffers, Zachariah Chapman Jacob Hruss, Daniel Husong and Christian Husong; the latter lived on the South bank of the East fork below the mouth of the run. In addition to these there was the widow Chandler and the widow Winans; I think the latter did not keep house at this period. All these, so far as they attended preaching attended at Collins' schoolhouse, and the most remote did not live more than two miles and a half from the schoolhouse. In 1808 the vicinity of this schoolhouse was as thickly settled as any part of Clermont County. In the fall of 1808 in company with two or three young men I walked from the Collins farm to a camp meeting in the Cincinnati settlement, I think we went near the track of the present road from Bassett's mill to Batavia. There was no road except a common horse path, and after leaving the Collins farm, we saw no human habitation, or anything that looked like a preparation for a human abode, until we reached the residence of George Ely. Some little ground was cleared where the old stone house stands between Moore's mill and Batavia. At that time there was a dense forest on both sides of the East fork for miles below Batavia; or rather below George Ely's new farm, for Batavia was not heard of until about the year 1814. If Robert Townsley or Ezekiel Demmit had at that time settled near the foot of Townsley's hill, their houses, and cleared land was not in view of the path we traveled. I cannot now name one family between the Ely farm, and the immediate vicinity of Milford. A Major Shaylor lived on, or not very far from our path, but I do not remember that we passed his house. My design here is simply to show the sparseness of the population at that time. Having named George Ely, I will here state that I first saw him in 1808. I was with others working on the road near Ulrey's run, Old Mr Tegarden was supervisor. Mr Ely rode along the road with a large sledge hammer for breaking stone, on his shoulder. He talked with us a few minutes and seemed a very pleasant man. He was dressed like a first class farmer, willing to work. That day learned that he was a wealthy man, and was making improvements on his land on the East fork. But the subject under consideration is the early inhabitants in the vicinity of the Ulrey farm. Owing to the Fair ground, and the probable effort to fix the County seat at, or near this place, will make it a point of some interest to the inhabitants of Clermont County. Jacob Ulrey built his first cabins in 1798. Tegarden, Jeffers and Christian Husong soon after. These were on the ground before 1803, except Chapman, who built his first cabins in 1804.

Daniel Tegarden's land was on the North side of the turnpike opposite Ulrey. He owned upwards of three hundred acres and the run was the eastern boundary of his land. He was a plain honest German farmer and read his Dutch Bible and improved his land. He had one son (Henry) and five or six daughters. About the year 1814 he sold out to Captain Pinkham; and with his son and sons in law removed to Indiana; his children were all grown before he left Clermont. Captain Pinkham lived on this land until the time of his death. He was from Nantucket, and had been a seafaring man from early life; and had generally performed the duties of captain and supercargo. In 1819 he was contrary to his wishes elected a justice of the peace of Tate township. The business was entirely new to him; he had scarce ever looked at a Magistrate's Docket; but he was laborious in his exertions to attain a correct knowledge as to matters of form. I was then a justice in Bethel. He come to me to see how a Docket was kept and the manner of making entries; and during the course of his service, he frequently come to me for consultation. After I had explained all to the best of my ability, he often said, Now if you wish to know any thing about a Ship or a Bill of lading I will give you all the information you want. And many an hour I listened to hear him recite the incidents and perils of a seamans life.

Christian Husong settled on the bank of the East fork at a time when the Indians hunted around near in the woods. Many years ago, he told me that for a year or two after he come on his land he felt at times fearful of harm from the Indians; but they never in any way molested him. He was a first rate workman at making plain substantial chairs and for many years supplied an extensive range of country with chairs. He was a religious man in the strictest sense of that term; and fifty years ago, he was what the world now calls a spiritualist. Our excellent friend Rev Charles Robb, is a son of his oldest daughter.

There was nothing particular in Daniel Husong, except that he could do more work in a day than any other man and eat more while doing the work. He was a great lover of honey

and cut down many bee trees in the woods. I heard him say that he would not be at all thankful for less than a quart of honey for one meal, particularly when he expected to do a large days work. His boys would climb walnut trees in the woods to knock down walnuts before they were ripe enough to fall; they gathered (late in the evening) a swarm of bees in their hats and carried them home from a bee tree cut down in the woods; they hived these bees, and the swarm went to work and prospered. I often heard this bee story told and never heard it contradicted. It was said that these Boys were more than a match for any thing that run wild in the woods. Two or three generations hereafter will have little Idea of the daring and hardihood of boys twelve, fourteen or sixteen years old, raised in the woods, on a frontier, exposed to the depredations of Indians

Jacob Hries settled about half a mile from the Ulrey farm, on the south side of the turnpike. He was an easy good natured man — tended his corn field, and on the main did about as well as he could, and that was not much. Upwards of forty years ago, he sold out to Absalom Leeds, a son in law of Jacob Ulrey. Mr Leeds was a steady respectable man, and lived on this land until the time of his death. He was from New Jersey

I have not been able to learn with precission the year that William Jeffers settled on the east side of Back run and south of the North of the present turnpike. I remember that he was there, the first time I passed the road in June 1804, and then had considerable improvement. Mrs Collins informed me that he was there in the spring 1803. William Jeffers was strictly honest and reliable; he worked hard, and was more liberal in sending his children to school than many farmers in better circumstances. His general moral character was good. But old Billy as he was familiarly called was a remarkably peevish fretful man. I must here relate an anecdote, that is too good to be lost; fifty years ago it was in the mouth of every person in the neighborhood; the facts as I often heard the matter stated, were about as follows. Old Billy's wife tired of his fretfulness concluded to leave him, or bring him to a better temper. She engaged a man to assist her off. Her character was entirely above reproach, and there never was the least suspicion that any improper intimacy existed between her and the man whose services she procured. Old Billy finding that his bird was flown, and the manner of her departure loaded his gun, and made hot pursuit. Stopping for his dinner, his host took out the flint of his gun lock, and put in its place a piece of pewter, cut to the size and shape of a gun flint — thus armed for war, he went ahead, threatening the fugitives with sudden destruction. However no harm was done in the shooting way, and within a few weeks Mrs J. returned to her home under an amicable arrangement; and some believed that thereafter, Old Billy was a wiser, and a better man. I often conversed with Mrs Jeffers, and know that she was a woman of excellent mind. She was too sensitive which often made her unhappy

The first time that I passed from Bethel to Newtown was in June 1804. there was a new cabin about three quarters of a mile West of Back run this was the third cabin West of Bethel. Ulrey's was the first. Jeffer's was the second, and the third belonged to Zachariah Chapman; though at that time he had not moved into it. Beyond this Westward it was all an unbroken woods for nine miles. Chapman settled at this place in 1804. He was from Virginia, and at that time a poor man. He had some sort of agency from Virginians to sell lands near him, by which he bettered his circumstances; and thereafter it was the principal thought and employment of his life to buy and sell land. I heard Captain Pinkham observe, that if Zachary was in a trance, and mention was made over him of a survey of land being offered for sale, it would bring him straight up, and let all things alone about him. Though a poor scholar, he was a man of excellent judgement, and great perseverence. His skill was well known in dividing surveys into lots to suit purchasers, and leave no part of the survey unsaleable; and his skill was equally good in showing land to purchasers and pointing out its good qualities. I believe that the services of Zachariah Chapman were really beneficial to Clermont County. The business he transacted was indispensable. If he had not been here, some other person would have divided and sold the land, which he divided and sold; and the question is, would another have done better? I never heard an individual complain that he misled, or deceived any [illegible] that he was guilty of any wrong [illegible] good circumstances, but not above [illegible]

For the Clermont Courier

Clermont County has very little of local history. Some counties or localities of the western states, will in future history, become classics as the fields where the armies of Greece and Rome acquired their never dying military fame. About twenty years ago a Clermont Editor very pertinently observed, that clermont county never contained a Bank, a brothel, or a race path; which statement was literally true; and to which I will add; Clermont county never contained a Battlefield, a gallows, or a pillory. I believe there never was an Indian trail of any note between the mouth of the little miami and eagle creek; and have never heard of an instance in which a whiteman lost his life by an Indian within the present limits of clermont ~~county~~. The great bulk of the early settlers were puritans by profession, education and habit. They were a very industrious, moral, and law abiding people. They generally believed in witchcraft and in one or more instances made large wooden scales to weigh persons suspected of witchcraft; these weighings were done with great solemnity and without any sort of riot or disturbance; and weight and character to these investigations, ministers of the gospel and Justices of the peace were invited to attend and take part in ~~the investigation~~. Many at that time considered the weighing as carrying the joke a little too far.

Clermont county contained another class of very early settlers entirely different from the above. These were hunters, woodsmen by birth and education. They were of the real go ahead dare devil type. During the sitting of the Court of common pleas in Williamsbury in June 1804. I spent two nights at Mr Sinks' tavern — quite a number of the hunter class were there. They spent nearly the whole night in the bar room in telling stories and singing songs. Conspicuous among these men was a Mr ~~Lagston~~; he lived on Bullskin; I was not informed of his particular locality; but will recite one of his hunting yarns. He said that while noiselessly creeping or walking through the woods in search of game he saw a wolf in the far distance, who appeared to be watching some object still more remote from him. He soon discovered that a large gang of wild hogs was the object of the wolf's anxious gaze. There was some commotion in the ranks of greenters who seemed apprised of the approach of an enemy, so Mr H. determined himself to watch the result. One [illegible] was in no remarkable mood waited through the carnival either to [illegible] a council of war, or to inspire their feebler brethren with courage; [illegible]

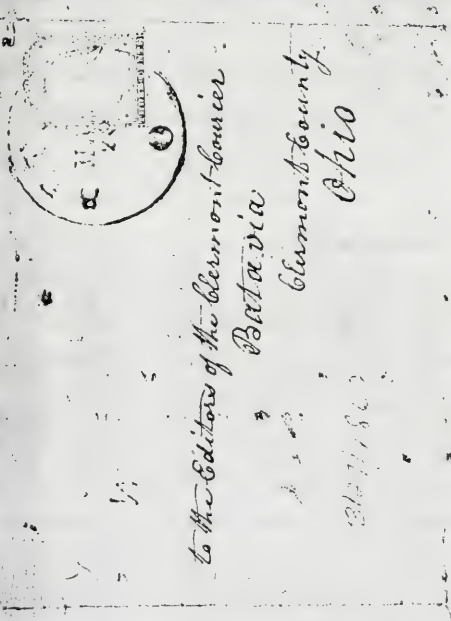
done, they scattered into a long line and made a distant circle around the wolf. All faces were then turned towards the enemy, and with horrible groans of defiance they marched to a common centre; the large in front and the little squeakers in the rear. As the circle became small it became impenetrable as a Grecian phalanx. As soon as the large hogs were in pitching distance, they pitched in. Mr. L did not say whether Isgrim asked for quarter; be that as it may, he certainly received none; for Mr. L found his skin of but little value but enough of the scalp remained to bring the government price.

These hunters were not profane men; and had very little of grass vulgarity of expression; but what then seemed to me most remarkable; they did not pride themselves in skill at fisticuffs; there was not the least show of quarrel or fight during two days and nights.

From my earliest recollection till Clermont was too populous to be hunting ground I was ever among and surrounded by hunters, and know that more than nine out of ten believed that a gun could have a spell or enchantment put on it so that it would not carry a bullet to the mark designed. At corn huskings, cabin raisings and log rollings, Deer, Bear, and Turkey hunting was the most common subject of talk. Every man could give ~~[illegible]~~ instances where he had the fairest sort of a shot; but the game bounded away, without leaving a mark of blood or hair to show that it had been touched by the bullet. In this state of the case, it was a great desideratum to unspell the gun. In this matter there was some mysticism. The most general belief was; that a very small portion of silver in any one bullet would dispel the charm; others believed that there were other remedies more simple and easy. I know that persons of practical experience were ~~often~~ consulted. I was well acquainted with a German, a man of first rate character for industry and morality; his cure was to put a bullet in the rectum and let it remain some hours and then charge the gun with it. I had this from one of his nabors, a German of good character, who believed in the efficacy of the remedy. It seems plain that God unceasingly designs to impress the human mind with a belief of the nearness of an invisible world and that we are ever acting in the presence of unseen intelligences, who occasionally control what is to us tangible and material. Samuel Davies of world wide celebrity as a preacher; in a sermon

on Braddock's defeat, declared that Washington's life was miracu-
lously preserved in that battle, and for some great ulterior
good. An Indian chief declared that Washington could not be
killed with a bullet, as he had fifteen or twenty fair shots
at him. We ought ever to remember that these early settlers in
Clermont had as much hard sound common sense as the best
we now have; they were close observers of facts and generally
not inclined to believe without ample testimony. If they erred
it was in drawing wrong conclusions from clearly established
facts. Owing to their pioner life they possessed great physic-
al courage; and their moral courage in cheerfully enduring
privations justly excites our admiration. It was no uncommon
occurrence for a young man and young woman to go into the
wild woods (about the first of April) with a horse load of corn meal
a bagfull of onions, a few cooking utensils and articles of bedding
and make their first encampment by the side of a large blown up
tree; where they continued until they could erect a cabin
twelve or thirteen feet square; into this they entered without
floor loft or chimney; the crevices were often filled with moss
and a large log fire was kept burning outside near the door, and when
necessary a small fire of dry wood was made inside of
the cabin. I have seen comfortable fires where there was not
even a back wall to build against. Thus housed, the next
object was to clear about two acres for corn punkins and
potatoes. This required all the husband's energies until
about the first of June. But be it known that the wife was not
a sleeping, snoring partner at this important period; she was
really worth more than a common hired hand. I must in-
troduce an important actor in these new establishments.
Nosser, Bull, or Carlow was so impressed with the import-
ance of his position as night guard that he really
seemed to believe that the salvation of the establish-
ment depended on his vigilance; if a straggling coon come
near Carlow was sure to tree him and would wait till his
master came out to relieve him. The vigilance of Carlow
saved the corn crop from coons and squerrils in the fall
but to return to the master and mistress. While the husband
cut trees and made rails the wife, if she had no baby was equally
diligent in gathering and burning brush; but if she had one, as

soon as she saw it soundly asleep in its commodious poplar trough, she left it charge of faithful Carlow who after his night watching was glad to take a nap by its simple cradle while she resumed her labor in gathering and burning brush. By these unceasing efforts about two acres of ground ~~were~~ was ready for planting the first week in June. The planting was often done without plowing. I have seen good corn and potatoes raised on rich new ground without any plowing; good corn hills were first made; the corn was dropped and well covered; when about knee high it was thinned, hilled, and all weeds destroyed the work was then done — the crop was made. In future numbers I expect to give the progress of my pioneers for three or



four years. I must here leave them simply stating that during the first two months of their progress, they did not live on bread and onions alone; they had plenty of deer, turkey and squirrels — deer jerk and turkey jerk; and for the sake of variety, they occasionally took a mess of fish out of an adjoining creek; fresh tapped sugar trees afforded them a little sugar water during the most of April which afforded them that most excellent drink called sassafras tea; they looked forward to the summer in full expectation of an ample supply of honey from the woods they were strong, healthy, and happy.

Benjamin Morris

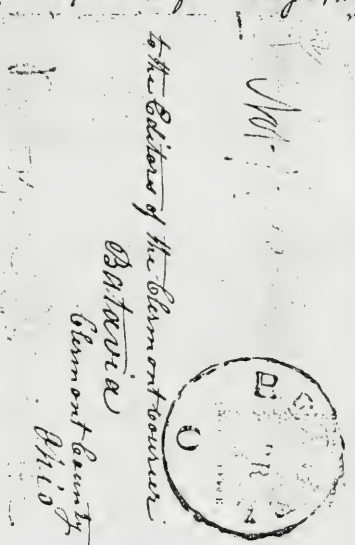
March 27. 1860

To resume the narrative of my pioneers, let me start where I left off. Before the tenth of June their lot of ground was planted with corn, potatoes & punkins some cucumbers, a few beds of onions and few peas completed their list. They watched the growth of these plants with an intensity of feeling and interest entirely unknown to such as never planted under similar circumstances. Henry had now a little more leisure to bring in a deer, a turkey or a few squirrels. But when his crop did not need his labor, he spent his time mainly in freeing from all timber, a lot of ground about eight rods square, he felled all the trees, burnt down all the stumps lower than the surface of the ground and burnt the whole of the useless wood; so that before first of August had done all his corn and potato hoeing and cleared a beautiful lot on which he designed to erect his cabin which was to be his fall job. To erect a cabin 20 feet square of sound green logs is a work not to be sneezed at; it requires more tools than young farmers generally own; a crosscut saw, a broadaxe, two or three augurs, a frow and drawing knife, and even an adze is necessary to make a smooth puncheon floor; all these tools are not easily procured where the people are few and far apart. Henry was well apprized of all these difficulties; but did not for a moment doubt of success; he did not gloom over difficulties but used all the energies of his mind and body in overcoming them; He went to work at his cabin about the first week in August; he worked with firmness and a determination that the work must and should be accomplished. Jane had viewed the growth of her plants, with a peculiar delight known only to those who have labored; and who not only see but feel that industry brings a rich reward not only to the body, but to the mind; before the end August she had plenty of roasting ears, potatoes, peas, beans and fresh onions. With gladsome heart she looked to the time when she could bring her cow home and winter her in the lot in which her corn was growing; to the cow she knew that she could add as many pigs and chickens as she wished for. Two or three bee trees furnished them with honey for the summer and fall. Carlow was fat and joyful and would not have quit his place for the throne of an Emperor. Before the last of August, Henry had all the materials for his cabin ready on the ground. The clapboards were ready; the logs were neatly trimmed and the end squared. He had in early spring cut and peeled a number of small hickory trees. These he designed for sleepers, joists, sticks

and weight poles. He revieved the ground again and again, to see that forks, handspikes and every thing necessary to facilitate the raising was on hand, and at its proper place. The next step was to ask hands to the raising. This in a very scattered population was a hard days work; and to insure success it was necessary to give notice at least a week before the appointed time. He had previously engaged the help of one of his nearest nabors to lay the foundation and put on one or more rounds of logs to forward the work at the appointed time. This nabor furnished him with a large fat shoat for the occasion. ~~Two or three of the neighboring women or girls came to assist, a~~ table was made by driving forks into the ground and putting poplar puncheons on the cross pieces. Henry had reserved for this occasion his best bee tree; after taking out the finest pieces of comb, all the balance was used in making a Barrel of Metheglin, a drink far superior to cider, and said to be more exhilirating. On the morning of the day appointed for the raising, all hands were on the ground at the earliest hour possible. Some four or five athletic girls appeared to assist in cooking; each bringing, a few knives, forks, plates and other little matters to decorate the table. Such as had not breakfasted, were invited to a repast of good bread, honey, roast pork and potatoes, with plenty of metheglin; and they were promised an early dinner. The men seeing the work in such a state of readiness and forwardness, went to work with a will and earnestness which said this job must and shall be done. The dinner was early and was considered excellent; fun and good humor was the order of the day. The girls employed a part of the afternoon in bringing the clapboards to the point where they would be rady for use; no one was remiss in proper exertion, so that before night the cabin was up and substantially covered; it was 20 feet square, a nine foot story in the clear with two rounds above the joists which made a commodious garret. This building was considered by the first settlers rather aristocratic; but Henry and Jane understood their own plans & knew that the building was not too large for the uses they designed it for, ~~as the sequel will show.~~ Henry invited his most welcome guests to the abundance that remained in his Barrel and on his table and with gratitude in his heart thanked them for their important assist

ance. The company all felt that it was a day well spent, and parted in friendship - better friends than they were in the morning. The girls, still had space to see them safe home. The much dreaded job of raising the house was now over; the work was done, and well done. But some difficulties remained. He wanted a cross cut saw, to saw out a door, two windows and a fire place; and he wanted help to do this work. Practice soon gave him skill in the use of the Broadaxe, and he had plenty of fine yellow poplar and lynn to make his floor. It would be tedious and not very interesting to detail the particulars of his operations. It may be briefly stated that before the first of November his house was hewn down on the inside and chinked, and well daubed with clay on the outside; it had a smooth puncheon floor and a loft of good boards. The door was made of boards, and hung with strong wooden hinges and had a substantial wooden latch. The fire place was made of rough stone and mortar as high as the mantle; then topped with cats and clay, and was large enough to burn wood six feet in length, a stone hearth was soon made and the windows were filled with paper. Henry though not yet 24 years old, considered the great battle of life fairly won. First 20 acres of land had been paid for in horses raised mainly by his own labor, and he believed that within eight or ten years, he could raise enough of spare horses to buy another 120 acres. Jane had far exceeded his highest expectations. She had positively insisted on accompanying him to the woods before there was any sort of shelter to protect her there; her firmness never forsook her for a moment. She never breathed a sigh of regret that she had left the comforts of a fireside to become a sojourner in the forest; she never anticipated misery; and never needed the stimulus of a little neighborhood gossip and slander to enliven her spirits. Jane had watched the progress of her house, with an anxiety easy to be imagined; and when finished, she went into it with a joy unknown to an Empress. The shelves were all arranged according to her wishes and there were plenty of wooden pins, on which any amount of clothing or other articles could be hung up in safety; she had in the days of her single blessedness, provided herself with a flax wheel; a cotton wheel and cotton cards; a clock reel and a few articles of plain furniture; these were yet with her mother; but now she had plenty of room for them at her own home; she had paid for

all these by spinning, weaving and selling flax linen; when thus employed, her labor was worth about fifty cents per day. It may be proper here to state that such had been the anxiety of Jane to see her house well finished before cold weather that she actually insisted on gathering the corn fodder and digging the potatoes. Of potatoes they had enough for two or three such families of corn they had what would answer their purpose; and of corn fodder they had sufficient to winter one cow. They designed their little summer cabin as a safe roosting place for their chickens, and a stable for their cow in bad weather. The pigs had a bed of leaves, between two logs, well covered with clapboards, and all so surrounded with rails that a wolf could not easily seize them. They were kept in this pen a few days; then turned out in the daytime to feed on



the abundance of mast that lay on the ground. The parents of our pioneers visited them soon after they went into their new cabin, and brought them a few articles that were important for their comfort during winter and their nearest nabors seemed joyful at their succes; and for the first time they had a few friendly visits. In short before the middle of November all their fall work was done. Their little all of property was with or near them. Brindle was joyful at the sight of so many punkins and nubbins; the pigs grunted as hogs always grunt when well stuffed with beech nuts. Old Chanticlear strutted around considering himself the greatest personage on the premises; and in view of all these additions to the establishment Carlow considered that his cares and responsibilities were greatly increased. In my next I will tell how Henry and wife passed the winter and spring, and their prospects for the future

Benjamin Morris

Bethel, Ohio April 4. 1861

For the Clermont Courier

Boys and Girls who have come to maturity within the last 25 years know very little of the labor or earnings of young men and young women in 1800. and up to 1825. then a young man who was not a good axe man was considered of but little force; and the girl who could not do the common days work at spinning or weaving flax or cotton was considered unfit to be married: the word among the women was 'hustle her out', she could not make her husbands shirts. This was like telling a slave that he was as worthless as a free nigger and had a good effect on female drones. In truth there was then but few idle old maids, sitting with their fingers in their mouths, hoping that a younger brother who had become a student at law or medicine would bring them a husband. I have a particular recollection of a girl who at the age of 14 could do the common days work at spinning or weaving; she was a brag in the management of a horse; and when seated in a side saddle on her favorite pony could bound through the woods like a deer. How she disposed of her hoops and underfixens while seated in her side saddle, I leave others to guess; if they ask the question, they must answer it themselves. This girl was married when a little under fifteen; and weighed one hundred and forty pounds nobody doubted her fitness to take charge of a family. Cases of this sort were common fifty years ago, and probably at a later period. I could name a number of young men who made from 50 to 200 acres of land by clearing land and making rails; some are dead; some sold out and went West. I think now of only two that remain, John Reed and James Davis; they are now aged respectable farmers; Robert Vanosdol made a good farm by patient industry I believe that he paid in part for his land by services in the War of 1812. It was the custom to clear land by the acre. Hard workers made about one dollar per day. A half acre of land for one day's work would now seem high pay, and a great inducement to work. But be it remembered that a five acre lot near any considerable village is now considered a greater acquisition than one hundred acres would have been in the same locality fifty years ago. The usual manner of clearing land was to fell all trees of fifteen inches diameter at the stump; all lesser trees, and fallen timber included. The larger trees were girdled; to girdle the beech and maple, two or three years before clearing was of great advantage. Before planting apple trees, all the forest trees were removed. The standing girdled trees were often annoying; a strong wind would often bring them down among the growing corn. The crop was considered safer after they were entirely removed. I heard a young man of high repute as an axe man say that he taken the first of November and the first

of the following May, he could clear, make the rails, and fence twenty acres of land; and that the first corn crop on the land, would more than pay for the work. Such a feat if practicable was not common. It was not usual for poor men to add yearly to their cleared land more than ten or twelve acres. The prosperity of Clermont has been mainly owing to the energy and industry of those who were young men and young women fifty years ago — going back a little earlier; or coming down a few years later does not materially alter the case; and I expect to show that if there is any merit in the matter, the females deserve a full half of it. Few wealthy men settled in Clermont; the wealth of 1860 has been fairly earned on this soil. Part of the new land was paid for in horses raised here. A very large amount of money earned in Clermont has been taken West to buy new land; this will fairly balance all the money brought from older States to buy land here. Many of the children and grand children of the early settlers live out west on land fairly earned in this county. The conclusion is rational, that all the capital here, land included has been fairly earned on our own soil.

We will now turn to Henry and Jane and note their progress during the first winter of their stay in the forest. After Jane received her cotton and kettles, she considered herself in a fair way to do something. She now looked hopefully to the time when she could pay for a loom and other little matters for weaving. The time might be one or two years distant; but to consider the ways and means was the work of the present hour. She had been to some extent a reader of books and newspapers, and knew there was an article of commerce called crude potash or black salts and that an owner of kettles could turn to good account every bushel of ashes on a new farm. In this way she considered it probable that a loom might be paid for; so she resolved to act promptly, and save all the ashes. But the carding and spinning of her cotton was her first job, and not a trifling one; the work was worth twelve dollars. It was Henry's practice to rise at the dawn of day; after making a good fire the sound of his axe was soon heard in his clearing. Jane was never slow in rising; after attending to her cow and pigs her breakfast was soon ready. Henry was always quick in attending to her call or signal; and when he came in he generally brought a bundle of hickory bark to make light in the evening. By this brilliant light Jane wheel went on humming till near nine o'clock; and by the same sort of light Henry made about six hundred spiles for his sugar trees which laid them up for future use. When this work was done he spent the evenings in reading such books and old papers as he had on hand;

and to keep his memory bright on the subject, he studied anew the greater part of his arithmetic. This was of practical benefit, and disciplinary to the mind; giving a power not easily acquired, of concentrating thoughts and ideas to a particular point or subject. When Henry found a suitable tree in his clearing, he worked it up into sugar troughs; in this way he had upwards of two hundred and fifty troughs, long before the sugar making season commenced. And to secure all the water, when there was a good run, he brought down a large yellow poplar in his clearing, took off the butt cut, and from the second cut, about 20 feet in length, he made a trough, large enough to hold from 15 to 20 barrels of water. Henry consumed nearly all the wood and brush during the progress of clearing his field. By falling trees across each other (or across fallen timber) at acute angles, he saved much chopping and logrolling; so he kept up constant fires, and had continually a good prospect of a ten acre field of corn. It must not be omitted that on favorable mornings, or after the fall of a snow, he was often out with his gun; and seldom returned without one or two turkies, a deer or a raccoon. During the winter he killed one Bear, one wolf, one fox, ten deer, twenty turkies and fifteen coons; so that he had plenty of wild meat, without including the wolf, fox or coons. He generally made up the time lost in the day, by burning brush and logs untill late bed time; in this way his progress in clearing the land was not much delayed by his hunting excursions. But the time for sugar making was approaching, and then all other work must be at a stand still

If there was a strong trait of character in the pioneers, it was a disposi to assist each other whenever such assistance was not immediately injurious to themselves. If a man had a good plowhorse, and not half the cleared land that might be tended with such a horse; it really seemed to do him good to see that horse used in plowing the corn of a man who had no horse. It was not the question. How can I make most out of my nabor's poverty? but how can I assist him without serious injury to myself? I could relate many facts, proving what has been said of pioneer friendship. But the point aimed at here is to show a retrograde movement. It is not <u>now</u> as it once <u>was</u>. Selfishness cheating, slander and tale bearing are now very annoying in some localities; and if a little assistance is really needed; the inquiry of Judas "what will you give me" is the first point to be settled. Henry had a nabor who had been in the forest longer than himself and had brought more means with him, he owned a good farm horse, five or six head of cattle and some hogs; these animals could all live well in the woods wher-

the ground was clear of snow; bells were then usual on horses and cattle and it was considered prudent to bring them home in the evening. This Mr B. was no hunter and no great contriver; he had often loaned Henry his horse and Henry had often given this family a quarter of venison, a turkey and a few pounds of honey. Henry knew that this good nabor had nothing better than a pot and oven to boil sugar water; so he proposed a partnership, which was readily accepted; and Mr B. was soon on the ground with his horse-sled-axe and pot. He hauled and distributed the troughs around to the trees; cleared away the brush that might be considered in the way, in hauling the water; made six wooden trammels. In short he soon had in right order a formidable array of boiling mettle; three large kettles, two pots and an oven; this was considered as doing business with a large Augur. Henry had for some time wanted oxen and chains to haul together small logs to burn some large fallen trees; so he applied to his old friend Mr A. before named; his request was cheerfully granted. At the time agreed on, he started at the dawn of day for the oxen, and before nine was at home with the oxen, logsled, and chains; he first hauled the large water trough to its place, and then used the oxen in his clearing; this days work added greatly to his progress in burning large fallen trees. Every thing was now in complete readiness for tapping the sugar trees; and not an hour of the sugar season was lost. It was the arrangement that Mr B. should haul the water, and Henry tend the kettles and fire; varying their work as circumstances might require. When Henry entered his commodious cabin, he was determined that Jane should do no more out door work; she had proved her grit during the first seven months of their residence in the forest. But Jane was not to be kept in during sugar making; she saw abundant room for her services; to strain settle and clear the syrup, and turn off the sugar, was a very important part in making good sugar, and to this she attended daily; thus they went, on—on, and on, boiling water all the day and more than half the night until they had upwards of six hundred pounds of very fair sugar. Henry now proposed a division of the sugar and offered Mr B. the use of the kettles and every appendage to make sugar or molasses the balance of the season, paying one fourth as rent; this proposal was agreed to; the late runs of sugar water were good, and Mr B. made enough of molasses to last his family a whole year. The faces of his little children were bright with joy at the sight of so much sugar and molasses. The free use of these articles greatly improved their health, as they improve the health of all other children.

April 18. 1860. No 4

Benjamin Morris

entrance of Henry and Jane into their new habitation, seemed a new Era in their lives. From their first entry into the woods they had been greeted nightly with the screeching, hooting and wrangling with the occasional howling of a wolf. All this serenading was kept up but now as the morning approached, they heard the shrill voice of the old rooster announcing the approach of day. When Henry arose, he found a warm fire place, with plenty of coals and fire chunks; two large back logs and a forestick, added to what was in the fire place made a very comfortable and lasting fire. The pigs were soon squealing to be released from their sleeping pen and brindle stood staring by the fence, wondering at their delay in bringing out her punkins and nubbins. In the progress of this narrative I intend to keep within the bounds of sober reality. But that every reader may fully understand the difficulties of the early settlers in Clermont; it may be proper to state some general truths. Until long after the War of 1812. every thing made of Iron was extremely dear, compared with present prices. Axes well ground sold at from three dollars and a quarter, to three and a half (warranted) Large kettles sold at ten cents per pound; small sized castings sold a little higher. The first articles I owned of this sort, was an eight gallon pot, a common dinner pot, an oven and bake skillet. The oven lid answered exactly for the large pot, and the skillet lid for the small pot; these articles cost ten dollars and three quarters; and with no other mettle and with fifty sugar trees, in the spring 1812. I made a little upwards of one hundred pounds of sugar. The county then being generally woods, the sugar seasons were much longer and more certain than they were in after years. A sixteen gallon kettle then rented readily for sixteen pounds of sugar for one sugar season, which sugar at the lowest estimate was worth two dollars. I paid fourteen cents per pound for Iron to make a fire crane; and four dollars and fifty cents for my first pair of Andirons; they were too large for convenience, and I soon sold them for the same price. Nails of the largest size in use were 25 cents per pound and window glass eighteen dollars per box; the retail price was at the rate of six panes for one dollar. The small quantity of West India sugar that reached Ohio, retailed at from 30 to 40 cents per pound. I paid in Williamsburg one dollar for three pounds; it was nice fair sugar. In those times there were no steamboats and no turnpike across the mountain. The country made sugar retailed in the late fall and winter at 25 cents per pound; and the early maple day before the middle of March sold at the same price; during the regular sugar making season sixteen cents was the common price; years of great abundance or

years of scarcity, altered the usual price. Had there been plenty
in the county, the amount of sugar in each year would
have been more than doubled; each family would have made
from four to eight hundred pounds.— Henry and Jane finding
themselves snugly housed as before stated, turned their
thoughts on their future work. They knew that to plan aright,
and then rigidly adhere to the plan, was the great secret
of success. To enlarge their cornfield to eight or ten acres
was the first point agreed on; but they considered it prac=
ticable to do a little more. Their land abounded with sugar
trees of a most luxuriant growth. They knew that if they could
obtain kettles; they might in all probability make from five to
six hundred pounds of sugar. It is true that Henry needed many things,
a plow, a log chain, a grindstone, a saw, drawing knife and two or three
augurs— a little powder and lead was indespensible— and he greatly
wanted a new axe, grubbing hoe and spade. To buy these articles
and the sugar kettles was out of the question. They often talked the
matter over, and finally concluded to buy the kettles if they could
possibly pay for them. Henry had some nicely dressed deerskins,
some fur, ginseng, and beeswax, with a few other little articles of
trade; he had been lucky in selling a few bushels of potatoes to a
new comer; so he concluded to go at once to Augusta in Kentucky
see what could be done; and if he failed there, to go to Cincinna
ti or Maysville. Jane was delighted with this conclusion. She now
wanted a dozen pounds of cotton, to card and spin through the win
ter; she had long anticipated this want, and had preserved the
lady material to pay for it. Henry started for Augusta at the dawn
of day; he saw a good assortment of castings at the store of a res
pectable merchant; there he purchased and paid for Jane's
cotton and his own powder and lead. He then stated his circum
stances and his wants. The merchant treated him in a very
kindly way, and agreed to furnish the kettles and take at fair
prices, the little stock of articles before named; and he voluntarily
offered, Henry a credit of six months, if he could not pay down for all
the articles he greatly needed; he inquired of the number, the wants
and the circumstances of the new settlers north of the Ohio, and within
the trading limits of Augusta; he requested Henry to view his stock of
goods and read the price of many articles. The merchant then earnest
ly urged him to stay, or share some fare for dinner. This merchant saw
in the persons of Henry the probability of a good new comer so much

or three years; he knew that the man who was buying seemed a less cotton for his wife to spin did not intend to run away; the marks hard worn hands were good evidence of his energy and industry, and told more than a written certificate could tell. Fearing that some of my readers may think that I am disposed to deal in myths; I wish at this point to state certain facts, showing the interest the inhabitants of the county felt in the welfare of each other when they were few and far apart. After Joshua Pigman had sold goods seven or eight years at his old stand on Bear Creek, he was taken sick and confined to his bed four or five weeks; and many feared the result. There was an intense feeling and interest for 12 or 15 miles around him; when men met, the first enquiry was; when did you hear last from Pigman; is it believed that he is on the mend; messengers were sent from some points to learn how he was. I lived in Bethel and heard from him almost every day. At a late period in his sickness; the word from him appeared unsatisfactory; I started for Bear Creek and went eight miles enquiring of all I met, until I had a satisfactory assurance that on the preceding evening he was considered as decidedly on the mend. Who now knows, or who cares, how, when, or where a man dies who never lived within ten miles of his own immediate neighborhood. Mr Pigman recovered to the great joy of the surrounding country. Some three or four years after building operations commenced at Neville; I heard there was a good store kept there by a Mr Steward I had not seen Neville and wanting a few articles, put off for the place on a saturday morning. I found Mr Steward to be a very agreeable Gentleman I bought and paid for articles, to the amount of about twelve dollars. Mr Steward fed my horse with corn, and urged me to stay for dinner; this had long been the practice of Joshua Pigman to his distant customers. Now without relating other instances; it may be well to seek the cause of all the little acts of kindness and hospitality so common among all classes of the early settlers

Henry reached home before sun set. Jane was full ~~brimmed~~ of joy at the sight of her husband; and well pleased with her cotton; poor Carlow had been sorrowful all day at the absence of his master; he could not like his mistress anticipate a joyful meeting in the evening; for he had no joys or sorrows in anticipation. [illegible] Our new beginners had made [illegible] of [illegible] carried out for one year; they were pleased with the

ears of Henry's visit; they believed that they had found a benefactor in the son of the Augusta merchant. But to bring home their kettles was the first job that required their attention. They had a kind nabor three miles distant; this man commenced in the woods with more than usual means he owned a stout yoke of oxen and cart with plows, log chains, and other farming implements. He had materially assisted Henry in allowing him the use of his oxen and chains in hauling his cabin logs together; and he was in like manner indebted to him for the plowing of his small cornfield. Henry was known to be careful, and he could not doubt the willingness of this good man to loan him his oxen and cart to bring home his sugar kettles; he applied and his request was cheerfully granted. Henry though well skilled in the use of oxen, knew that to pass through the woods and over hills and ravines required great care and judgment. A nabor who had some trading to do, agreed to accompany him; they made a very early start; one went ahead with an axe to look out for obstructions; but as they were both well acquainted with all the ground, they had but little difficulty. While the Ferryman was taking them over the river, they fed their oxen with nubbins. The kettles were soon packed in straw and their trading soon finished to the satisfaction of all parties, so that within an hour they were on their way home. On their way homeward they frequently stopped a short time to rest the oxen; giving them at each rest a few ears of soft corn. In the evening there was clear moonlight; they went on slowly and carefully, and with all safe and sound, they arrived at home a little before ten O'clock, with three, twenty gallon kettles, a drawing knife, two augers and a little salt. Henry unyoked the oxen, turned them into his small field, and fed them plentifully with corn and blades. Jane had in readiness what was considered a very good supper; there was a large fire that would last through the night; a straw bed was made on the floor for the friendly nabor and the little party fatigued; but well pleased with their days work, were soon asleep, and slept until about six in the morning. Henry's first business in the morning was to thank his kind friend for his company and assistance on the preceding day; he then fed the oxen and took them to their owner, who appeared highly pleased at the success of Henry's trip, he saw his oxen and cart safe and sound; and apparently not a particle the worse of wear; he felt that there was a double blessing in being good; greater indeed to the doer than to the receiver.

For the Clermont Courier, Chapter 5.

There was a large national debt when Gen. Jackson took the Presidential chair. He was President eight years; and during his administration (to the best of my recollection) the revenue was about thirty millions per annum. To pay the national debt, was the great hobby of Gen Jackson. His political opposers made this admission; and said that he was screwing down the pay of office holders to the lowest cent. Gen Jacksons deeds will live in history. He paid the national debt. He throttled and strangled treason and nullification in South Carolina. He drove the last nail into the coffin of the mammoth bank; and he come very near hanging the arch traitor Calhoun. But best of all, before his time was out, he had say 60 or 80 millions of surplus revenue. This point in our history — this surplus revenue will stand as a perpetual memorial of what may be done by an honest efficient administration. Gen Jackson knew that some of the States were deeply in debt for internal improvements. His advice was; that the surplus revenue should be annually divided among the States to pay old debts, or make new improvements. Had this advice been followed; the debt of Ohio would have been paid ten years ago; and our taxes lessened one half. The honest part of the Northern democracy were delighted with the success of Jackson's administration; some said that he considered all the states as his children and that he wished to see them all out of debt before he died. Calhoun and his fellow traitors then looked on the prosperity of the country, as the devil after his fall, looked on Adam and Eve in paradise; they raised the hue and cry against Jackson's plan of distribution, and their clamor was successful. Jackson's anti thieving administration was hated by every scoundrel and thief that belonged to his party; these all longed for a change; and they all went over, body and breeches to his old enemy Calhoun; little did the old veteran think while saving money to pay public debts; that the money thus saved, was to be expended in negro hunts in the swamps of Florida. Van Buren succeeded Gen. Jackson. He went into the whitehouse under a pledge given before his election, to veto any law for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. He was called the northern man with southern principles. Nearly all the waste of money and life, during the great negro hunt — the Florida war took place during his administration. Van Buren (like all other Presidents seeking a candidate for re-election) received [illegible] electoral votes, and Gen. Harrison two hundred and thirty four. Van was indignantly hurled from his seat for the extravagance and great expenditure of money during his administration. The whigs amused the public by telling of his golden wash bowls and plates. But tell it not in Gath. There was not a democratic press bold enough to face the music, and tell the public that Van, under the tight pressure of Southern masters, had spent thirty or forty million in trying to eat the Indian as well as negroes in the swamps of Florida. The Florida war cost the people of Ohio four million dollars.

Benjamin Morris

For the Clermont Courier. Chapter 6

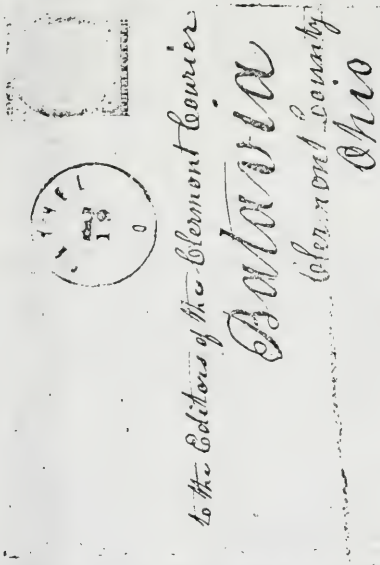
About seventeen years ago, I had a long conversation with a farmer; a moral religious man; having great weight of character. I gave him a history of the Florida war; its causes and expenses. He replied. Morris, your statements cannot be true. I know you have read, and very earnestly believe the truth of your statements. Surely if facts are as you say; the News papers would publish such matters throughout the whole length and breadth of the land. I told him that very few papers published these matters. That leading whigs and democrats knew that the slaveholders could and would give the Presidency to the party that gave the least offense. I further informed him that I had made out written statements of all I had told him, with my name at the bottom; and had told where I got my information. That the whig and democratic press had both refused its publication. I told him I would write out every statement I had made and sign it; if he would hand it in for publication; and he might request the editor to give me a severe castigation if he found any thing wrong in it. I urged this on him, but he seemed rather to decline the experiment. But before we parted, he said If your statements are correct; this government will not last twenty years. Van Buren entered the White house on the 4. March 1837. from that day to the present, there has not been more than half a shadow of honesty in any administration; excepting that of Harrison which lasted one month; and that of Taylor which lasted sixteen months. Fillmore showed honest intentions, and some pluck. When Jackson left the City he took with him a large portion of its honesty. Mc Lean and a few others of the right stripe remained; about enough to save Sodom from fire and brimstone. The actual slave owners, though not a sixtieth part of our population, have ruled the President, and his subordinates as completely as they have rule the slaves on their plantations. Through their cat paws, they drenched Kansas in blood, in blood and wasted millions in efforts to force slavery on that long oppressed people. They have stolen Florida, Texas and other lands which have cost the nation some hundreds of millions. They have plundered the nation of treasury; stolen the mint, ships, forts, arsenals and public arms. They have saddled the nation with a debt of one hundred million dollars; hanged a father because he belonged to the church north; and inflicted ignominious punishment on men because they voted for Lincoln. Reader how do you feel about all these matters; do you wish to submit, and have all this rubbed in; do you intend to fall in more knees and authorize [illegible] [illegible] you intend to the man who said [illegible] you have spit in my face, pulled my nose, called me [illegible] coward and sheep [illegible] young [illegible] you will [illegible] [illegible] in me, and [illegible] [illegible] will last [illegible]

Benjamin Morris

For the Clermont Courier. Chapter 7.

The sale of Texas to Spain was recognized by every Department in our government, and thereafter Texas was considered one of the Mexican Provinces. After the Mexican revolution Spain acknowledged the Independence of Mexico and thereby Texas was one of the Mexican states. The Mexican congress abolished slavery. The people of Texas said, we can't come it; and under the patronage of slave holding ~~the cotton states~~ revolted and rebelled against Mexico within my memory; say between 1795 and 1804. Natches was called 'rogues harbor'. Being beyond the limits of the American government, villians of all shades took shelter there. This refuge for rogues was broken up in 1803 by the transfer of Louisiana to the United States; thereafter felons, thieves, and other rogues, went to the spanish dominions further south and west. In due time Texas become the center of attraction for criminals and rogues of every grade. S. R. Wilson was President of the Bank at Parkersburg Va, and appeared to be doing a good business; but he suddenly cut stick, and took the entire bank soul and body, and was off to Texas. In Texas he become a great man - had some black concubines, and went ahead. The legislature of Ohio granted a divorce to his wife. She was a most amiable beautiful woman. In 1844. I met a negro from Clinton County and asked what the people of Clinton County said about Texas annexation. He replied they say Texas is full of murderers thieves and robbers, and they think it mighty hard to be put on a level with such men. But some say continued the darkie, that some very nice people have gone to Texas of late near the end of his administration; and while Santa Anna was a prisoner in Texas; Gen Jackson advised Congress not to acknowledge the Independence of Texas. Gen Jackson emphatically declared, that as Congress was the war making power; it was the rightful power to act in the matter; as acknowledging the Independence of one people, was sometimes equal to a declaration of war against another people. Before giving the above advice to Congress Gen Jackson had sent an agent (Henry A. Morfit) to Texas, to examine and report facts, as they really existed. From Mr Morfit's report we learn, that the actual number of settlers in Texas (excluding negroes indians and mexicans) never exceeded thirty thousand, and those mainly from the United States. That the population is not increased by emigrant volunteers; as these always return to the United States. That the ardor of volunteers is diminished by a suspicion that the whole enterprise is designed only for the benefit of a few. That it is entirely uncertain what number of men may be in

the Texan army two months hence; it being made up of citizens from the United States; that its continuance depended on the arrival of new volunteers; as the old were fast leaving the army. And further that large sums of money had been given to Texas to carry on the war; and that these liberal donations, he supposed would be continued. Mr Morfit says that this is the first instance known where a state has carried on a war with men and money from another nation. He further discloses some facts not yet generally known. Texas was in the habit of seizeing American ships and condemning their cargoes I cannot now state with precision the number thus seized and condemned during the war. Mr Morfit names three. The Watchman. The Fanny Butler and the Camanche. All the ships seized by the Texan robbers were loaded with rice, beans, bread, flour &c. In this way Texas got supplies for her army. And



this pretence for seizing these ships was that these supplies were designed for the Mexican army. Some American politicians said; that as Mexico claimed the country; and a rightful jurisdiction over it; and denied the national existence of Texas; that Mexico must pay for the stolen bread, beans and rice; and make good the losses sustained in a country she claimed as her own. This swindle, and the great ten millions swindle will be better explained hereafter, when I shall speak of our national losses from Texas re annexation. Reader is Texas now your kith and kin; bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh? Are you one bone and one beef, as the Dutch Squire pronounced this man and woman, who were standing before him to be married.

Benjamin Wright

For the Clermont Courier

Though well pleased with his success, Henry was glad to be relieved from his sugar camp; he had previously on rainy days dressed his deer skins and they were in nice order for sale; so he started at once for Augusta with the whole proceeds of his winter hunting. He first squared his old debt; and by the kind assistance of his friendly merchant made arrangements for a plow, log chain, axe, grubbing hoe, hand saw, and a few other smaller articles. On his return the daily blows of his axe; and his mid-day and mid-night fires, had a telling effect in clearing his ground for the plow. He had made all his rails before the middle of February; he had cut and saved from fire a sufficiency of good logs to build a stable fifteen feet square; but to haul the logs and rails and plow the ground required a team. It is said by some, that man is the creature of circumstances; be this as it may; it seems certain that necessity has its own peculiar laws. Henry went with some timidity to Mr A. to propose a bargain; he offered to do a job of clearing or making rails, for the use of the oxen to do the before named work. Mr A smiled at his honest timidity — told him to take the oxen and go ahead; and as for work it was always good pay, and that he might choose his own time of doing it within the limits of a year. Henry now felt quite cheery; there was nothing now to obstruct his progress, except calls to assist at cabin raisings. Every man then felt under an honorary obligation to assist at house raisings, though the morning walk might be six or eight miles. It was by daily hard exertion that by the first of May he had a ten acre field cleared and under good fence; this field included the ground cleared the last year. He first put half an acre in flax; the seed was sown on the potatoe ground of last year; the maxim then was "raise flax or go naked" By a careful arrangement with Mr A. in the use of the oxen; all their corn was planted by the first of June, and the potatoes by the middle of June. The potatoe crop was very important to the early settlers. Over and above the then abundant yield; potatoes were long considered a good substitute for bread, when there was no water in the creeks to grind corn or wheat. I will state facts that are clear in my recollection; though I know they will appear marvelous to persons under forty years of age. In the Spring of the year 1811. I was offered the use of about three quarters of an acre of ground that lay in the corner of a field; on condition of clearing it up and burning the brush and fallen limbs of trees. It had been cleared and fenced about two years, but never plowed; it was separated from the fields by a ravine too deep to be crossed with the plow; there were a number of good sized poplar trees standing on the ground. I plan[illegible] about half an acre of this ground [illegible] in corn about

tenth of May; the remaining quarter acre I planted in potatoes; in hills about the tenth of June. The ground was not plowed; I went through with the broad hoe and made corn hills say 15 inches square, mellowing only the hills; the potatoe hills were larger; but only the hill was mellowed. When the corn was near knee high I gave it a thorough hoeing; hilling it well, thinning it, and destroying all the weeds; nothing more was done and the corn I considered very good. The potatoes were well hoed and hilled when about eight inches high; the ground was well mellowed and all weeds entirely destroyed; this was their first and last hoeing. These potatoes were as good as any I have seen since, or before that time. I sold twenty four bushels to Henry Cuppy on a horse swap, and six bushels to Adam Smith; with other small lots, amounting in all to about forty bushels; and judging from what remained I was then fully satisfied that the product was fully at the rate of four hundred bushels to to the acre. I fed a fine Mare six months on what I raised on this patch of ground and she did not eat more than half the corn. I saved every blade, top and husk, which she eat at her leisure. I gave her salt twice each week, kept her very clean, and frequently gave her a feed of boiled potatoes; she was in first rate order in the spring, full of life and vigor. In the spring 1812. I fenced a half acre lot in Bethel; it had been cleared of small timber seven or eight years; the only wood that remained on the ground, was the bodies of four or five large oak trees that had been cut down for tan bark – these were used to make rails. The ground was well plowed about the first of June and planted about the tenth. Not wishing more than four or five sprouts in a hill, I used a little under one bushel and a half of seed in planting two thirds of this half acre lot. The hills were made with the hoe; well mellowing the ground; the potatoes were dropped about four inches lower than the plowed surface; and the potatoes covered with mellow earth to the depth of about three inches; they were well hoed by mellowing all the surface of the ground; but the hills were not as high as they are often made. I believed that the deep, rich porous soil of land abounding with large poplar, walnut and spice wood required deeper planting or more hilling than the compact soil of whitoak land. At digging time I selected three medium rows and measured the product, heaping on as long as any would lie on the measure. Taking these rows as data for calculation, I had a little over one hundred and thirty bushels of potatoes; common measure would have given less bushels. I was then fully satisfied that the product was rather over than under the rate of 400 hundred bushels to the acre

A number of farmers made trial of these large potatoes for seed; but they all reported a failure. They all raised potatoes not greatly over the common size, and believed that this climate did not suit them. My luck was the same; but I had a different theory; it was this. The sooner the connexion is ended between the planted root and the young vine, so much the better; provided the young vine is fairly above ground. Half grown, or quarter grown potatoes quickly rot after producing sprouts. Full grown, ripe hard potatoes after producing sprouts, often remain sound in the earth firmly attached to the vine during the summer and fall; as every potatoe digger very well knows. But why the vine will not well produce young potatoes, while firmly attached to the parent root is another question. I omited to state in the right place, that the potatoe on which I experimented in 1816 was the hog potatoe. It was praised in Virginia, as very productive and good for hogs and cattle. When well kept over winter they are good for table use during the spring and early summer. I can relate many other facts proving the truth of my theory concerning ripe and unripe seed; but will now drop the potatoe subject, and talk of Jane, and her cotton spinning. When I write the word 'Jane' I have distinctly in my memory a real bona fide noble hearted woman, who fifty years ago ~~had~~ had eight or nine of the finest sort of children and a first rate industrious husband. She had from childhood been accustomed ~~to a~~ to frontier life, and often recited the incidents of her pioneer life in Vermont. How she gathered dry weeds to protect her babes from the dampness of the earth in a cabin without floor, loft, chimney, door shutter or bedstead. How the wolves howled and the owls screamed through the night, how the wild turkies gobbled at early dawn; and how the little birds gathered around her cabin and large out door fire, and cheered her with their morning songs; how she could load a rifle, and with a good rest could bring down a turkey or a squirrel and how she assisted her husband in raising their first crop of potatoes, corn and beans; and how faithfully her large dog Towser guarded the whole premises. This noble woman is not dead; true indeed the earthen vessel in which she had a temporary residence has long slept in the dust; but her real self; the true identical woman, still lives, sees and sympathizes with those yet clothed with flesh; to these she was long and closely allied. She is now in the foreground; a few steps in advance; and if we believe as stated in Holy writ, that angels rejoice at the repentance of one prodigal outcast sinner; it seems the climax of infidelity, folly and stupidity to believe that this good woman does not now see, know and sympathize with those who were once the companions of her pilgrimage.

Benjamin Morris

I sold forty five bushels of these potatoes to Joseph Doggers (late from Kentucky) for a rifle gun estimated at fifteen dollars; with other smaller lots - winter-ed a milk cow on potatoes generally boiled; and in the spring had more than I had use for. The ground though better cultivated, was not more productive than my patch in 1811. Peter M'Clain lived many years about five miles South West of Bethel. In the matter of raising potatoes I always knocked under to him. He often told me that his last work before reaping his wheat, was to plant his potatoes in new fresh ground. His potatoes were as large and fine flavored as any I have seen. He was not very particular to know the exact amount per acre; yet in that particular, I believed his crops were equal, if not better than my own. The observations of more than sixty years has fully convinced me, that the half grown or quarter grown, unripe potatoe is best for seed. When flax was grown, it was always the custom if practicable, to let flax follow potatoes. In pulling flax I have seen in hundreds of instances, that when the volunteer potatoe vine was pulled up, and nothing of the seed was found except the empty skin of a potatoe, not larger than a small plumb then the young potatoes were large enough for use; but if the vine brought up a hard sound potatoe; then the young potatoes were too small to be of any use; in general they were not larger than small peas; the large potatoes were sound the very small were gone except the skin. The first week in August 1816. I brought a potatoe the growth of 1815, from Harrison county Virginia, and planted it in my garden in Bethel. It was not larger than a hen's egg, but I divided it into five or six pieces, and put the whole into one hill; the vines were slender; and none attained a length of more than eight or nine inches. 1816 was cold; with white frosts in every summer month. To insure success I covered my potatoe hill at least thirty nights, and in this way kept it growing till the middle of October. I then had over a half pint of very small potatoes; the largest not over the size of a small plumb; these were carefully preserved and planted early the next spring; the largest were cut into two pieces, and the whole planted in about sixteen hills. Their growth at first was weak and slow, but they continued growing much longer than usual; and in the fall the vines were large and heavy. It has been a matter of regret, that I did not at that time take written testimony as to the size of these potatoes, and the yield from the ground. Half a dozen or more of farmers said they were far, very far superior in size to any potatoes they had seen. [illegible] The product must have been at the rate of six or seven hundred bushels.

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